21 1950

Washington Physicist Develops New Low-Fuel Jet Engine for Air Corps

BUFFALO, N.Y. —A colored associate research physicist at Cornell Aeronautical Laboratory here has perfected a new jet engine that has relatively low fuel consumption and is applicable to guided missles and helicopters.

Dr. Joseph V. Foa, head of the propulsion branch of the laboratory's aerodynamic research department, revealed last week that the midget engine, called a valveless pulsejet, is the work of 29-year-old Joseph G. Logan of Washington.

He also collaborated with Abraham Hertzberg in the construction of another new-type engine known as a wave engine.

Modified German Version

In announcing that successful models of the pulsejet engine have been built at the laboratory, Dr. Foa stated:

"This valveless pulsejet is a modification of the engine that powered the German V-1.

"In the V-1 engine the flow of air was controlled by reed valves at the front end.

"The reed valves were a source of flow losses and had very limited service life because they were subject to severe fatigue at high temperatures.

Experiments Back Logan

"In working on the theory of pulsejets, Mr. Logan found that elimination of the valves and suitable modifications of the shape of the duct would result in much improved performance.

"Experiments have confirmed Mr. Logan's prediction and also have shown that the engine can have considerably less 'drag' because it can be streamlined in shape.

Service Life Unlimited

"Substantially, it is little more than a tube with a closed end and side openings for fuel and air injections.

"Its service life is practically unlimited because there is no part that is subject to fatigue."

The pulsejet and the wave engine resulted from research being conducted under Project Squid, a program sponsored by the Office of Naval Research and the Office of Air Research.

La bDirector's Statement

Dr. Clifford C. Furnas, laboratory director, said:

"Preliminary performances computations indicate that the wave engine could constitute a very efficient jet engine, and if used as a gas generator would increase the thrust and specific impulse of turbojets very appreciably.

"Several attempts have been made in recent years to develop heat engines in which combustion products are used directly to compress the fresh charge needed for combustion.

Applicable to Industry

"This interaction of one gas on another can be described as a wave process and therefore engines of this type are called wave engines."

Dr. Furnas added that the wave engine could be applied to industrial as well as aircraft gas turbines.

Physicist's Background

Mr. Logan, who has been at the Cornell Laboratory for four years, is also studying at the University of Buffalo for his master's and doctorate degrees.

He is a native of Washington, where he attended Dunbar High School and Minor Teachers College.

He is a former mathematics and science teacher in Washington and Baltimore Schools. Before coming to Buffalo, he was with the Bureau of Standards in Washington.

'SUB-ROCKET' SHIP LOOMS:

Ex-GI Inventor Plans Ocean-Beating Devices

WASHINGTON

On the land and in the air numerous colored inventors have created works that have aided our nation's economy and defense. Now, however, along comes one who has applied for patents on two machines for the water which might prove revolutionary in both fields—the economic and the military.

This inventor, a veteran of World War II named Walter Wiggins Jr. of Washington, recently filed with the U.S. Patent Office designs for a "Sub-Rocket" ship, which he claims can travel from 56 to 60 knots (65 to 75 miles) per hour; and for a new design

WALTER WIGGINS JR.
"Submarine Drilling and Pumping Apparatus."

Covered by Oval Top

The "Sub-Rocket" ship, on which Wiggins asked for a patent on June 29, is a super-freighter, battle wagon that can be converted into a troop transport vessel.

From the ship's triple keels up, it is oval in shape, resembling a sea tortoise, with a navigation cab in front like a streetcar's. Below long, oval observation windows at the top are two others rows of round windows, each of which represents a deck of the vessel.

12 Synchronized Propellers

The three keels of the ship are each to have four dual propellers and four rudders which are synchronized so that four of the propellers will revolve to the right, while another four turn the other way. The ship will be run by Diesel engines with overhead valves.

It is expected to attain the tremendous speed boasted for it by being able to plunge through waves instead of slowing down for them; and the three keels, gyroscopically balanced, are supposed to keep the ship from rocking.

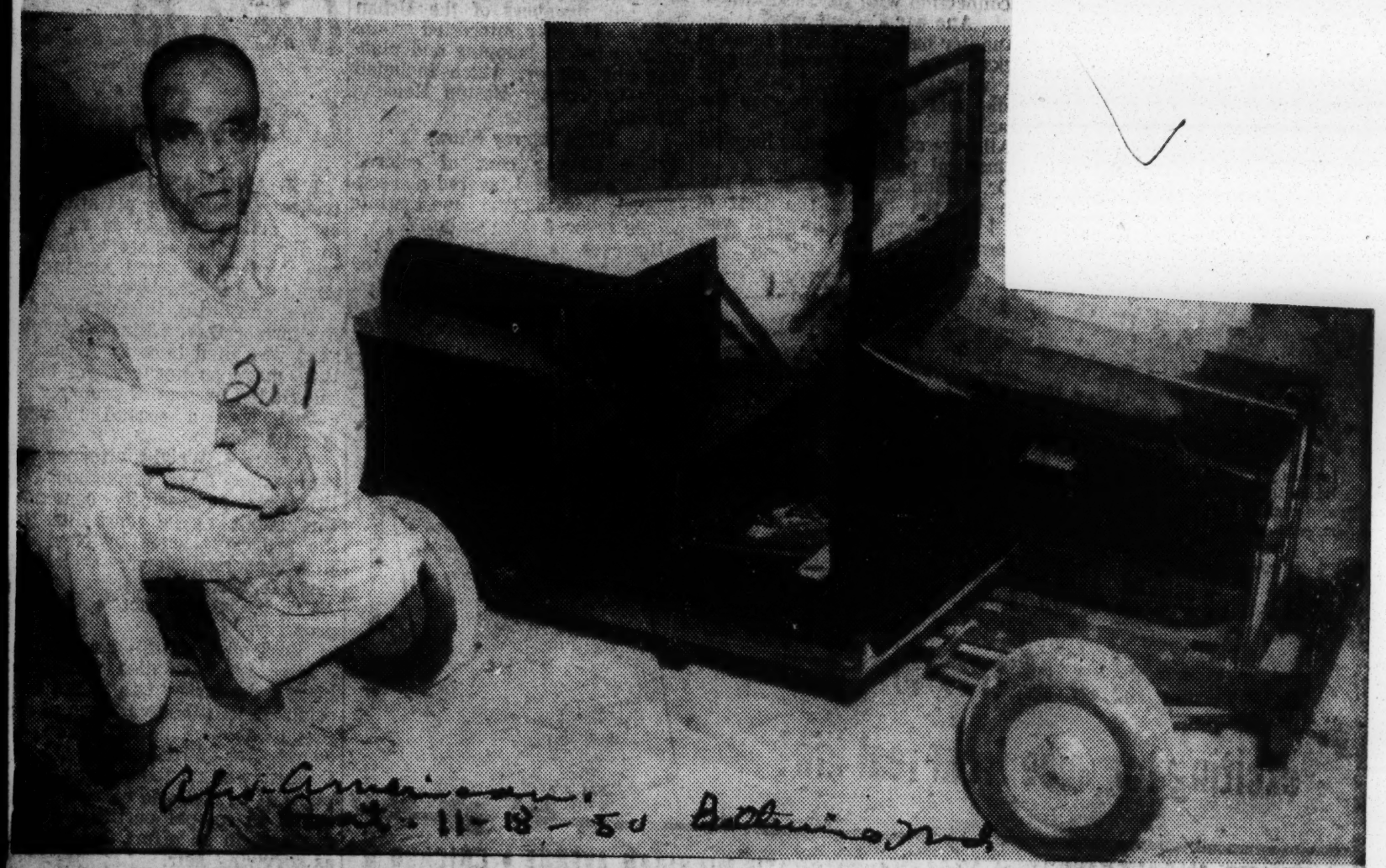
Drills, Pumps Oil Form Sea

Wiggins filed for a patent on his latest invention, the "Submarine Drilling and Pumping Apparatus," on July 18. It is a machine expected to improve methods for drilling undersea oil wells and for pumping oil from them to the surface of the sea.

The apparatus, in appearance like a huge, cartridge-shaped cylinder, bullet side down, with tenacles and a drill at the base, is supposed to be completely controlled from the surface of the water.

When you are young you do a lot of wishful thinking. When you are old you do a lot of thoughtful wishing.

'Kiddies' Jeep Runs 2 Hours on Quart



Stanford Allen, a truck driver of Millsboro, with the jeep he built.

Truck Driver Goes Midget Car Makers One Better With 245-Pound Model Jeep

MILLSBORO, Del. — Stanford Allen, a truck driver who resides about 1 and one half miles from here on Route 113, has gone a step farther than the makers of the baby Austins or any of the other midget autos.

H has made a jeep which even a child of 5 years can drive and which runs 2 hours on a quart of gasoline.

Mrs. Allen built his new model jeep, "Mayelford," for his 5-year-old daughter, Mayola.

Can't Exceed Speed Limit

"Mayelford" has a speed of 5 and one half miles per hour. It stands 36 inches high to the top of the windshield, is 6 feet in length and 24 inches wide. It weighs only 245 pounds.

The motor is in the front, carrying one V-belt that works as clutch to transmission. It has three shifts, forward, reverse and neutral.

It has a king-pin front axle, wooden drive shaft and worm drive rear. The tin hood opens at the the front so one can get to the engine. It has wooden frame springs, wooden wheels, with four 6 by 35 tires and tubes with ball bearings.

There are two headlights, one tail light, and one dash light which works from the engine. The foot break works on the drive shaft, pulling with both back wheels. There is ample space in the front for an 8-year-old child to operate it.

Three Names Used

Stanford lives with his wife, Mayola, and their three children.

How did he arrive at the name of "Mayelford," for his new creation? That easy, Mr. Allen explains. Mayelford is a combination of the names of his three children, Mayola, 5; Elva,3, and Stanford, 1

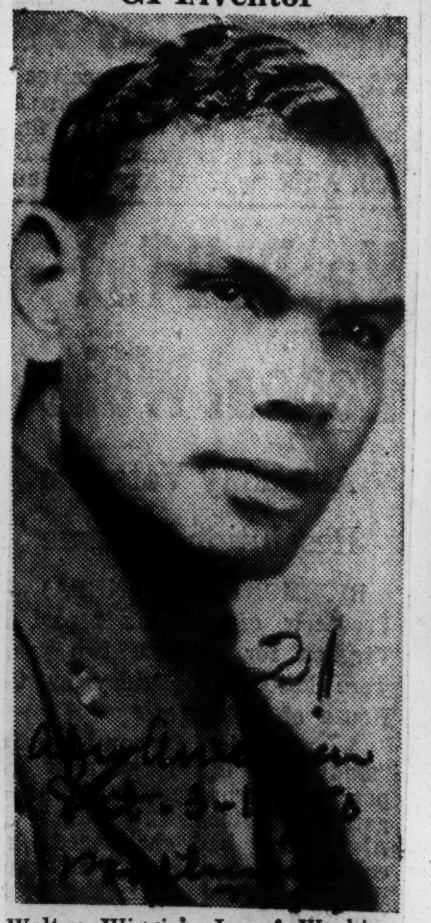
Invents Smeller System, Named Movie Booster of Year

GARY, Ind.—(ANP)—[illegible] son L. Bailey by inventing a system by which movie goers may smell as well as see the picture was named movie booster of the year last week by a group of Chicago theater managers.

Bailey calls his project a Smeller system plan. On this basis movie fans could smell and see certain scenes.

He was nominated by Hugh S. Borland, manager of the Louis theatre in Chicago.

GI Inventor



Walter Wiggins Jr. of Washington, inventor of diving apparatus, under the name of "Bathyscoop" for the purpose of recovering valuable material from the sea floor, also invented a particular type of hoisting equipment under the name "Oscillation Track Derrick" for the purpose of lowering and lifting the "Bathyscoop."

Invents Feeder for Armless and Paralyzed Patients

Miss Bessie Blount (second from left) of Newark, N.J., shows her invention, Invalid Feeder, to Dr. George O'Hanlon, medical director of Jersey City's Medical Center (where picture was taken), and nurses. The feeder is designed to enable armless and paralyzed patients to feed themselves without the assistance of a nurse. This is the first demonstration in New Jersey, and Dr. O'Hanlon chose Feb. 2nd, National Freedom Day, for the event in an effort to show the progress of the colored people of America in the medical and scientific fields.

Woman Invents Invalid Feeder Worth $100,000

JERSEY CITY, N. J.—(CNS)—An invention, valued at $100,000 by engineers, which took five years to assemble to perfection, debuted here this week as the Invalid Feeder, created by a 35 year old Negro woman, Bessie Blount, of Newark.

The debut was in a form of demonstration at the highly modernizedd Medical Center in Jersey City and received ovations from that hospital's medcal director, Dr. George O'Hanlon.

Started Five Years Ago

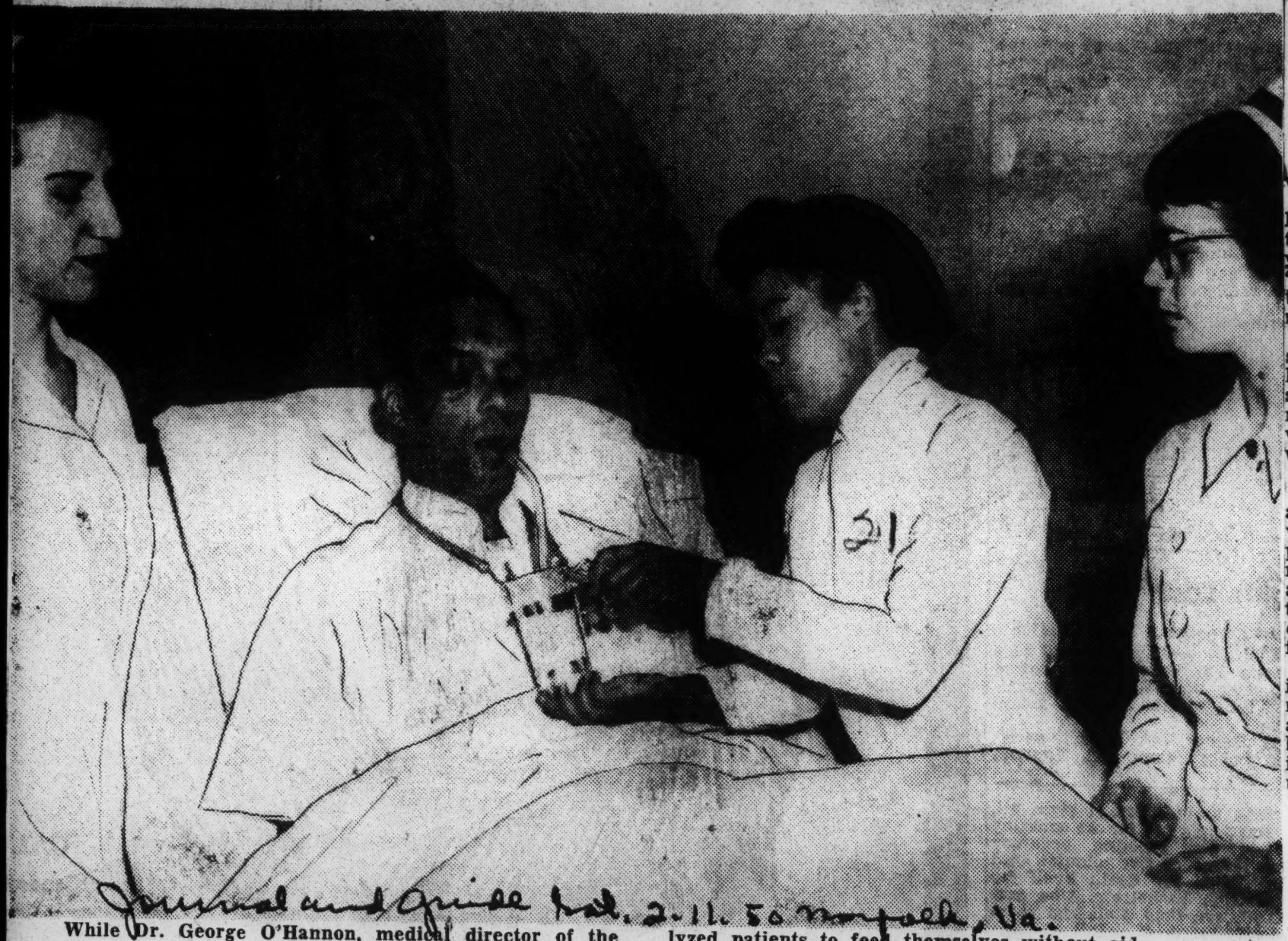
It all began five years ago when a patient at Kingsbridge Veterans Hospital said to Miss Blount: "If you really want to do something for us, make us something to feed ourselves with" Miss Blount, who was busy teaching paralyzed and armless vets to write with their toes, smiled with a sparkle, "I'll try," she said.

Her Invalid Feeder, registered at the U. S. Patent office, works entirely by electricity. A nurse can set it up and leave the patient to feed himself. He bites down for a mouthful of food.

He can eat as slow or as fast as he chooses. The feeder simply means: no more hand-to-mouth feeding and no more cold meals. For the apparatus is fully equipped to keep hot soups, etc., at any given temperature.

Helped Hundreds

Jersey City Nurse Demon strates Her Invalid Feeder



Journal and Guide Feb. 2-11-50 Norfolk, Va.

While Dr. George O'Hannon, medical director of the Jersey City, N. J. medical center looks on, along with nurses, Miss Bessie Blount demonstrates her new invention, the "invalid feeder," designed to enable armless and paralyzed patients to feed themselves without aid.

The invention was demonstrated on Feb. 2, National Freedom Day, as an effort to show the progress of American Negroes in the medical and scientific fields.--

Inventor Gets Patent on His 'Phone Aid

Baltimore Afro-American Oct. 3-11-50

RALEIGH, N.C. — Marshall E. Butler, who has devoted his spare time to inventing gadgets for 20 years, has at last had one of them, "phone aid," patented and hopes to sell the rights to the handy mechanism.

The device automatically switches off the radio when he lifts the telephone receiver, and switches it back on again when he replaces it. It also controls a light which illuminates a note pad while the receiver is off the hook.

Maintenance Supervisor

Superintendent of maintenance at the Chavis Heights housing development here, Mr. Butler has perfected another invention that makes his job there easier. It is an electric remote metering register which records the amount of coal fed mechanically into the furnace.

Stating that he has been inventing things all of his life, but has never had the money to market any of them, Mr. Butler said that he hoped that someday one of his inventions would achieve general use as a labor saver.

The Inventor Who Made His Phone Do Manual Labor

Marshall E. Butler, inventor of the Phone Aid, is shown displaying another invention, the "Electric Remote Metering Register.", which measures the amount of coal used in a furnace.

By DOUGLASS HALL

Marshall E. Butler, self-styled inventor of 11 Edgecombe Terrace, Raleigh, N.C. creates items that will ease the burdens of every day life.

"By making living as convenient as possible, I believe that persons will have more time to spend in seeking happiness," he told the AFRO in an exclusive interview.

I spent several hours with Mr. Butler and could not help but be impressed with his genius.

With only about six years of formal training, he has become an educated man by following up the call within himself "to invent something."

Because he needed certain knowledge in the field of chemistry, physics, electronics and other areas in order to carry on experiments, Mr. Butler has completed a large number of correspondence courses.

He can converse at length concerning the background history of any of his inventions.

Phone Aid

One of his labor-saving creations is the "Phone Aid." Already patented (No. 2430387), he now enjoys it in his home. Mr. Butler explained:

"My telephone is located in the same room as the radio, but on the opposite side. Quite often while listening to a favorite radio program the telephone rings. This, of course, necessitates my having to cross the room to cut it off or lower the volume of the radio.

"One evening, while reading, the phone rang. My wife asked that I cut the radio off.

"Instead of returning to my reading I began thinking of what might be done to remedy this annoying situation... In my spare time I retired to my workshop, and in a few days a crude model of my present "Phone Aid" was the results.

"This device, when the receiver is lifted from the telephone, cuts off the radio and turns on a small light which illuminates the dial for further service.

"On one side of the device there is a space for a pad to be used for jotting down numbers, or taking a message. Further experimenting on the same device, I added a toggle switch within easy reach of the telephone user, for restoring radio service should there be a listener in the room."

Mrs. M. E. Butler demonstrates the use of her husband's recently patented Phone Aid, which turns off the radio automatically and turns on a light in the phone dial, while their young son looks on.—(Hall Photo).

In addition to making life a little easier for his wife, Mr. "Automatic Computing Calendar," which is still being used by the company. Then following his "Not at Home Doorbell" and the "Automatic -Milk-Box Locker."

No Patents Secured

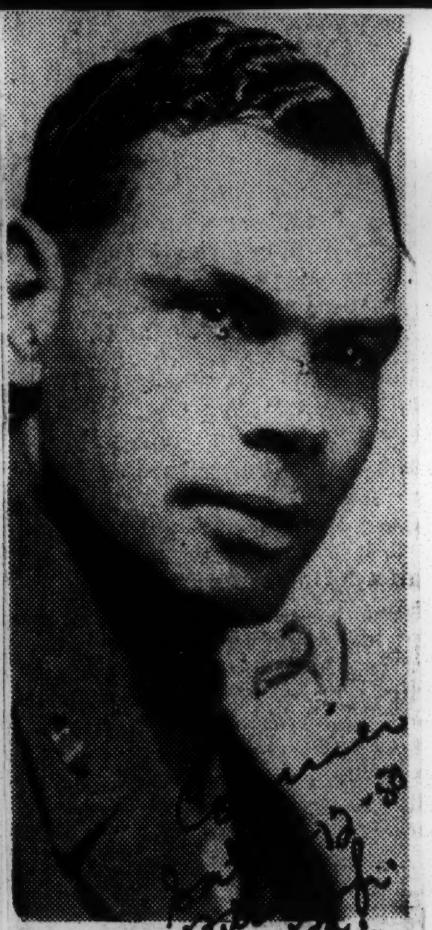
Since he did not secure patents for these devices, other inventors have made and marketed similar ones.

Born on a small farm and the oldest of a large family, Mr. Butler turned to inventing at a very early age, because in that way he found that he could enjoy many of the things that his family was unable to buy.

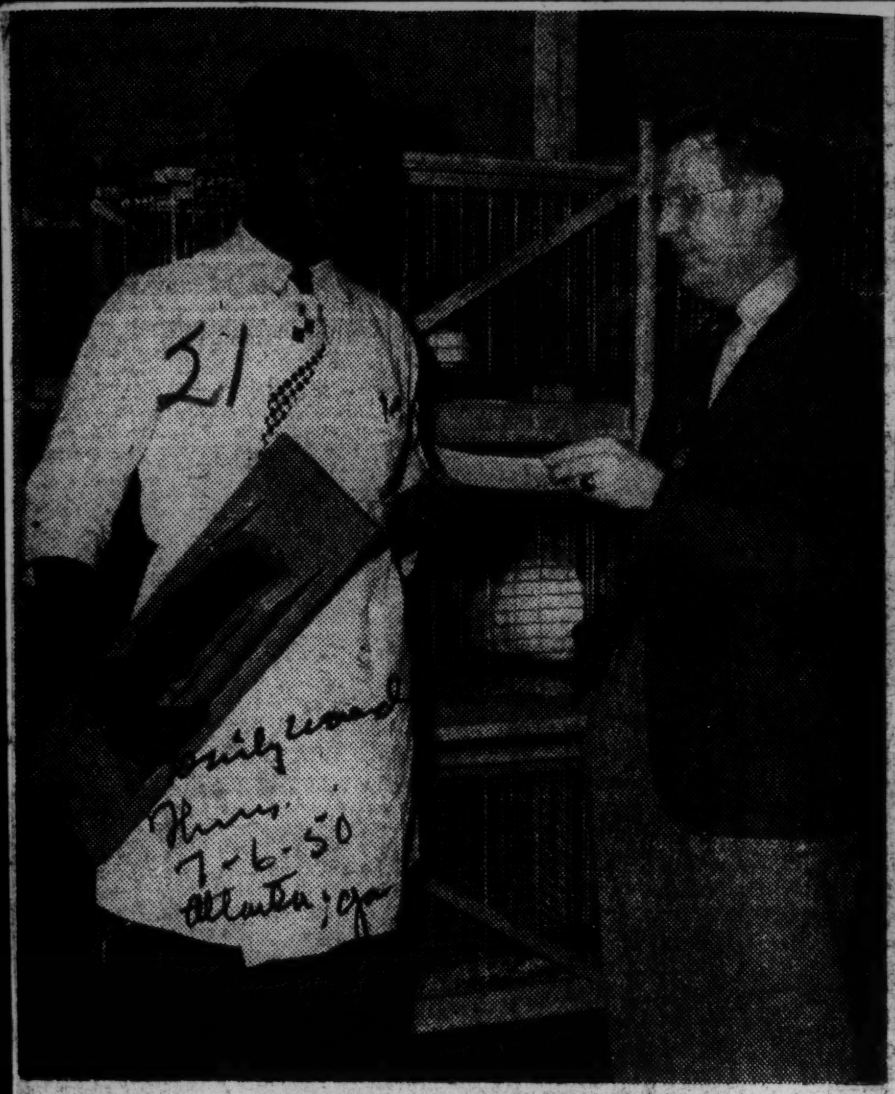
He recalls: "When I was only fourteen I had to get up at 5 a.m. and make fires.

"With an old flashlight battery, several pieces of wire and an alarm clock, I rigged it up so that when the clock alarmed the light would come on and I would not have to stumble in the dark to find the old oil lamp."

He hopes that one of his devices will reach the market and prove a labor-saver and bring happiness to mankind.



Inventor—Walter Wiggins Jr., 5437 Central Avenue, S. E., Washington, D. C., has invented a "sub-rocket" ship and a submarine drilling and pumping apparatus. Plans have been filed with the U. S. Patent Office.



AWARDED FOR INVENTION — Genius Merritt, laboratory worker at the Communicable Disease Center, Atlanta, receives a check from Donald K. Dobyns, personnel officer, for the invention of the rabbit holding board which he has in his right hand.

Merrittt handles rabbits during certain scientific tests. He invented a rabbit holding board which not only speeds up scientific research procedures but saves the Government an estimated $500 a year. The invention cost less than $2. Mr. Merritt received a cash award and a commendation from the Public Health Service for his invention, which is now in routine use at the Communicable Disease Center research laboratories in Atlanta. He is perfecting another device at present.

AIRCRAFT INSPECTION — Jack Adams, Atlanta Daily World employe, who won honorable mention Thursday in a Model Airplane contest sponsored by Rich's hobby shop, looks over his story, "Mr. Mulligan." Little W. A. "Rip" Scott IV and his sister, Alexis, inspect the gas model plane which Adams entered in the contest to "inspire other members of his race to compete in contests open to them." — (Adair's Photo)

Student Develops Newer Jet Engine

BUFFALO, N. Y.—(ANP)—The development of a new low fuel consumption jet engine for-war planes by a Negro research physicist was disclosed here last week by Dr. Joseph V. Fea, head of the propulsion branch of the Cornell Aeronautical Laboratory.

He is Joseph G. Logan, 29, a native of Washington, D. C. Logan, while working at the laboratory, is studying at the University of Buffalo for advanced degrees.

Jet Engine Developed By Negro Physicist

BUFFALO, N. Y.—The development of a new low fuel consumption jet engine for war planes by a Negro research physicist was disclosed here last week by Dr. Joseph V. Fea, head of the propulsion branch of the Cornell Aeronautical laboratory.

The alert scientist is Joseph G. Logan, 29, a native of Washington, D. C. Logan, while working at the laboratory, is studying at the University of Buffalo for advanced degrees.

He is a graduate of Miner Teachers college in Washington, and is a former math and science teacher in Baltimore and D. C. schools. He also has worked with the bureau of standards in Washington.

Logan's engine, a modification of the pulsejet engine that powered the famed German V-1 bombs of World War II, has already passed a successful test. If his engine is a success it may be utilized in rockets, jet planes, and helicopters.

Ex-Teacher Develops Jet Engine

oseph G. Logan, Jr., 29, former District school teacher, has been credited with the development of a "[illegible]" engine at the Cornell Aeronautical Laboratory in Buffalo, N. Y., where he is an associate research physicist.

Logan

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. oseph G. Logan, sr., of 139 S st. nw. Logan, sr. is a retired principal of Shaw unior High School.

The new jet engine has relatively law fuel consumption and is applicable to guided missiles and helicopters. Called a valveless pulsejet, its construction cost and weight are negligible and its service life almost unlimited.

Logan is also credited with the joint development of a new type "wave-engine" which can be applied to industrial power as well as aircraft gas turbines.

A graduate student at the University of Buffalo, he has been doing research under sponsorship of the Office of Naval Research and Office of Air Research.

A graduate of Shaw unior High School, Dunbar High School and Miner Teachers College, he taught for several years at the Garnett Patterson School here. He is marrid and has a 6-year-old son.

Mattress May Bring Slumber On Easy Street To Young Inventor

By L. F. PALMER JR. 21

JAMES A. GRIFFIN is a young Chicago mattress maker from Memphis who didn't go to sleep on his job.

The 26-year-old son of a Methodist minister decided he had been at the foot of the bedding industry too long. So he invented a "reversible" mattress and it's be-

ming to look like young Mr. Griffin will soon be slumbering on easy street.

The James A. Griffin Reversible Mattress has made its appearance in 10 Chicago furniture stores and the young inventor is lying awake nights (on one of his mattresses) counting royalties instead of sheep.

DREAMS UP IDEA

He is not lying awake because he can't sleep. He doesn't want to. He "works" that way. That's how he dreamed up the idea of his new mattress which he says is the hand-man arthritis and rheumatism sufferers have been waiting for.

What's so different about the James A. Griffin Reversible Mattress? Well, it's tufted and tuftless. And it "breathes."

Translated, this means the mattress is hard on one side — the tufted, and soft on the other — the tuftless.

A tuft is that little metal button you see neatly spaced over your mattress. It tightens the covering, keeps the mattress firm. And it makes the bed hard.

WHAT DOCTOR ORDERS

That's just what the doctor orders for deformed persons or cursed with arthritis or rheumatism. However, when these painful attacks cease, all the sleepy-head needs to do is turn the reversible mattress over and bury himself in the soft and comfy tuftless side.

To give his mattress double life and to keep the cotton stuffing fresh, Jimmy puts 20 air vents on the sides of his brainchild.

"It inhales and exhales just like you and me," he said.

His is the first tufted-tuftless mattress ever made. It couldn't be

TALKING IT OVER—Examining the tuftless (soft) side of the James A. Griffin Reversible Mattress which he invented, Griffin, right, talks things over with Jacob Lurie, sales manager and part-owner of the Royal Bedding Company in Chicago. Royal has exclusive rights to manufacture the unique mattress for Illinois and Indiana distribu-

done, he was told by manufacturing experts. But he did it.

SIGNS CONTRACT

Producing his invention, with exclusive rights in Illinois and Indiana, is the Royal Bedding company. Jimmy was working for Royal when he completed his project. After talking it over with Harry, Sam and Jacob Lurie, owners of the company, he signed a contract with them which put him in business.

The Luries didn't need much selling. Jacob Lurie, Royal's sales manager, spoke for his brothers when he said:

To prove his sincerity, he will introduce Jimmy to 17 other bedding manufacturers at the Chicago Furniture Show in January. They will be offered franchises and it's a good bet they will join Royal in the production of the reversible mattress, thus giving Jimmy a nation-wide market.

12 YEARS IN BUSINESS

The Griffin Mattress can be made by the same machines which turn out standard mattresses. Consequently producers need not go into extra expense in the production of the reversible.

So it looks like Jimmy Griffin's 12 years in the mattress business will finally pay off. He was only fourteen when he got a job with the Slumber Mattress company in Memphis.

"I remember my first day at work as though it were yesterday," he said. "I was still in grammar school and wanted to make some extra money. The boss liked me and told me he was going to teach me the mattress business."

It's a cinch his teacher did a good job.

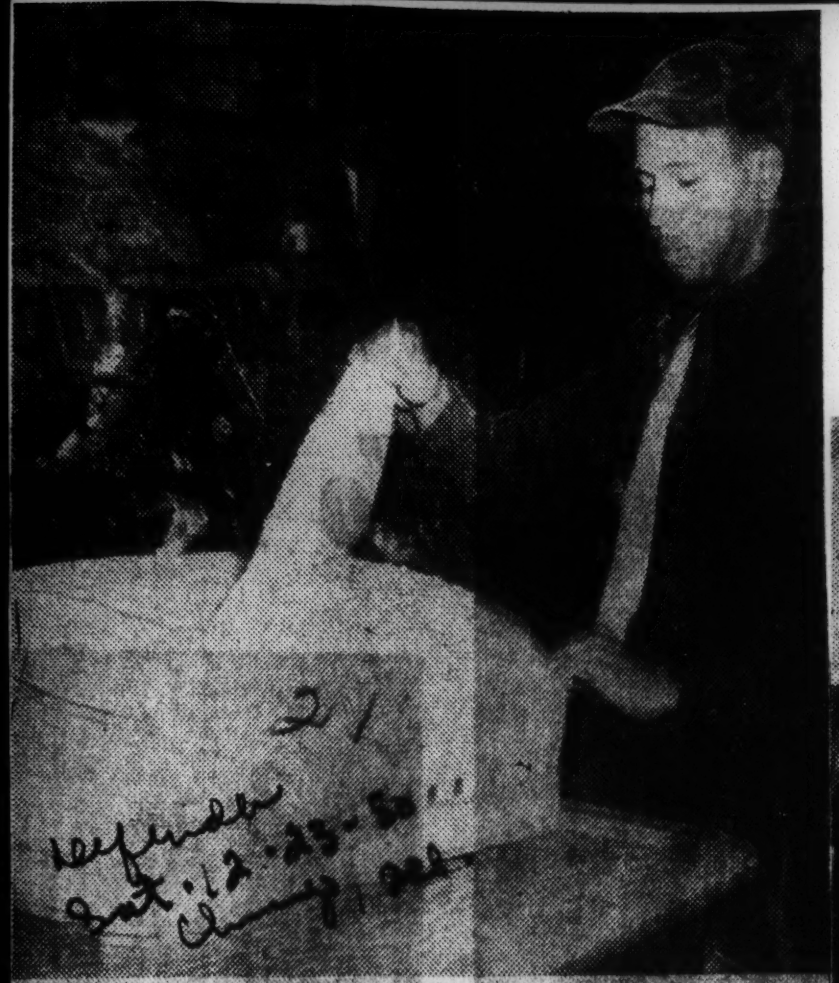
LOTS OF PLANNING

"Now I can make a mattress in 15 minutes. But I've always wanted to make something out of myself and I couldn't see too much of a future just making the things. So I decided I'd try to do something no one had ever done before — invent a reversible.

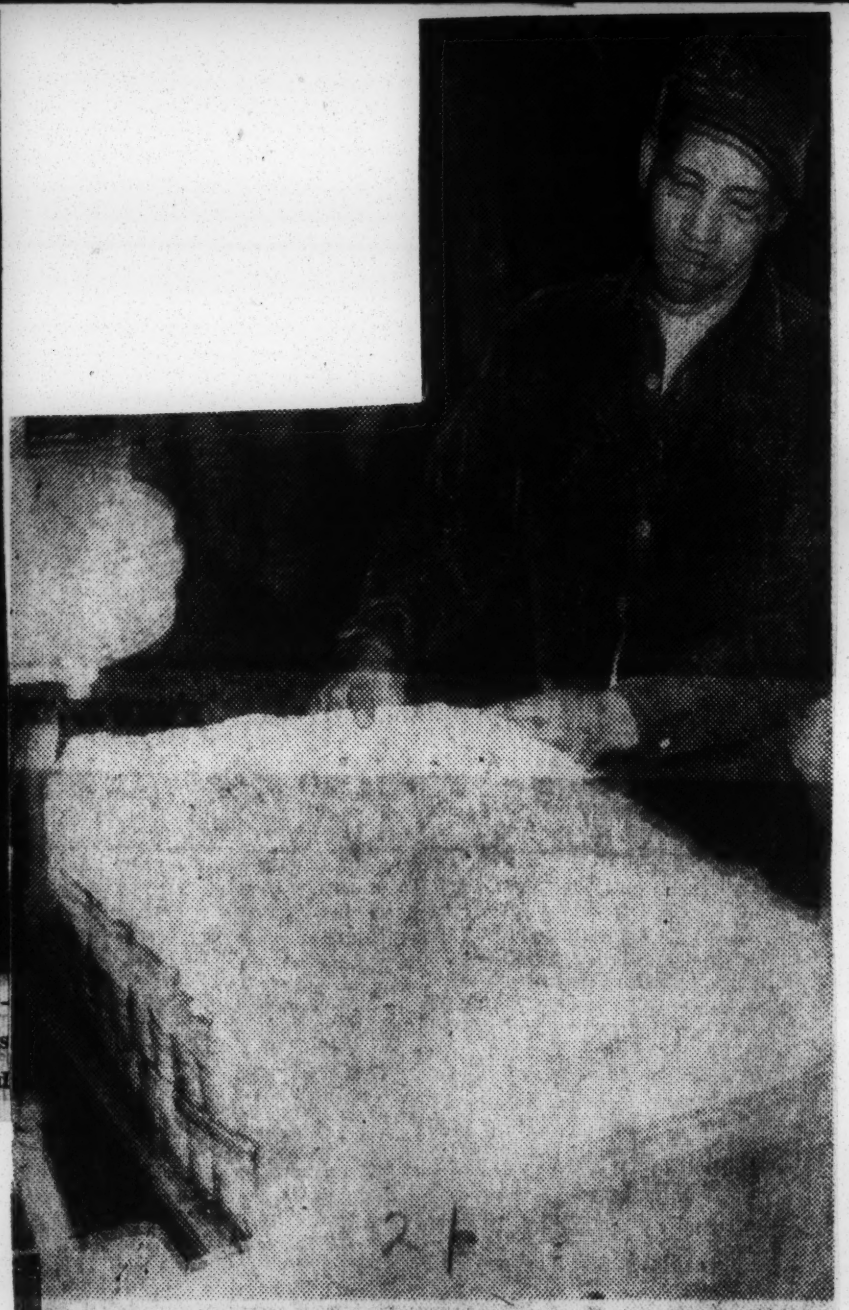
"It took a long time and a lot of planning but I finally got all my plans drawn up and showed them to a few manufacturers. They laughed at me and told me it was impossible. But now I think I have showed them they were wrong."

The youthful inventer, who graduated from Booker T. Washington high school in Memphis, came to Chicago in 1939. Only six months ago he married the former Miss Myrtle Robinson, an Arkansas belle. They live at 1508 W. 112th pl. in Morgan Park.

With the breaks in his favor, it'll be a 'soft' life for the Griffins.



MAKING A SCALE MODEL of his mattress, Griffin completes one-half the job and runs it through the tufting machine, which makes one side of the mattress hard and suited to the needs of deformed persons and those afflicted with arthritis and rheumatism.



JOB ALMOST COMPLETED. Griffin lays cover over cotton padding and prepares to sew mattress up. The model will be used to demonstrate the effectiveness of his product to manufacturers who will confer with Griffin at the Chicago Furniture Show in January.—Defender photos by Rhoden.

21 1951

Woman Inventor Gives France Invalid Feeder

NORFOLK—An invalid feeder, designed to revolutionize the feeding of amputees and other afflicted persons, has been given by its American inventor to the French Government.

The creator, Miss Bessie Blount, of Newark, N. J., had originally offered her invention to the Hospital Operation Service of the Veterans Administration in Washington. The VA told her that the invention was not needed since enough nurses and attendants were employed to hand feed patients.

Last week at the Guide office Miss Blount, a former Norfolkian, expressed the feeling that racial prejudice played a part in the snubbing of her feeder by fellow countrymen.

* * *

THE DEVICE, which she valued at $100,000, would permit invalids to feed themselves through the electrical appartus from any position in the bed.

A few weeks ago Miss Blount received a request from the French Ministry of National Defense asking that one of her feeders be loaned to them for experimentation and use in French military hospitals. She decided to give them the patented device.

The inventor expects to go to Paris soon to work with engineers in producing additional feeders.

NEITHER INVENTING, nor dealing with handicapped persons are new fields for Miss Blount, a certified physiotherapist. The feeder is the latest in a long line of her contributions to the afflicted.

Another of her recent patented inventions is a specially constructed basin to aid patients reacting from operations. Miss Blount said she also has perfected about four other inventions to aid hospital patients, for which patents are pending.

Her ability to write, cook, crochet, iron, and wash with her feet has been well publicized. She also writes and draws with her teeth. Through her special talents, Miss Blount has helped to rehabilitate numerous veterans who have lost their limbs. The inventor also

reads braille.

* * *

MISS BLOUNT'S career as an industrial designer began in 1944 when she was taking a course in educational therapy at Bronx Hospital in New York. A program director there knew of the therapeutic work that Miss Blount was doing to help rehabilitate disabled veterans.

Belittling her efforts, the physician said, "If you really want to do something to help these boys, why don't you make something by which they can feed themselves?" He was jesting, for the Army had worked in vain for four years to perfect a self-feeding device.

The words of the director remained on Miss Blount's mind. In bed that night she prayed over what was to become the realization of a mechanism which Army "know-how" could not develop. She saw a finished product as "clear as day" and got up at three in the morning and began to work out a design.

* * *

FIVE YEARS AND $3,000 later the invalid feeder was ready. It was first publicly demonstrated in Jersey City, N. J., on National Freedom Day, Feb. 2, 1950.

Specifically, the feeder is a device which enables a paralyzed or armless patient to eat or drink any type of food while in any hospitalized position without the aid of a nurse or attendant.

A complete meal might be served by use of four compartments and an adaptor. A dish attachment enables the patient to eat cereals, stews and soups. A glass attachment is for the consumption of liquids including medications.

* * *

THE ADAPTOR TO feed solid food is electrically operated and controlled to deliver a mouthful that the patient would normally consume. The food is delivered directly into the mouth of the patient who regulates the feeding process by biting on a switch which controls the passage of the food through a spoon-shaped tube. To permit time for chewing and digestion the feeder shuts off automatically after each mouthful is delivered.

The kitchen of her home at Hawthrone avenue, Newark, is the usual workshop for Miss Blount's inventions where she labors with plastic models. Her physio-therapy office is also located at her home.

A native of Hickory, Va. the inventor received her early training in Norfolk and Rahway, N. J. public schools. She attended Union Junior College in Cranford, N. J. and Panzer College of Physical Education in East Orange. Miss Blount also completed a course of physio-therapy in Chicago.

LIKE GEORGE Washington Carver, she receives little in the way of money. Her inventions and services will always be available to those in need she said.

Revolutionary Invalid Feeder And Woman Inventor

The invalid feeder shown at top enables a paralyzed or armless patient to eat or drink any type of food from any position without the aid of someone else. A simple adapter is shown at the right of the picture. A dish attachment enables the patient to eat cereals, stews, or soups. The adapter to feed solid foods is electrically operated. The patient regulates the feeding process by biting on a switch, which controls the passage of the food through a spoon shaped tube.

On the left a glass attachment is for liquids and medications.

Miss Bessie Blount, inventor, is shown at bottom. She has given the feeder, which she values at $100,000, to the French Government for use in their military hospitals. The Veterans Administration in Washington previously said they had no use for the invention. A native of Hickory, Va., Miss Blount now lives in Newark, N. J.

Jerseyan Gives Inventionto French Government

By ART CARTER

NEWARK

Miss Bessie J. Blount, 37-year-old certified physiotherapist, of 519 Hawthorne Ave., Newark, is a very happy young lady today.

She has never been to France but it is quite probably that Frenchmen will owe her an everlasting debt of gratitude.

The reason: She has just completed arrangements making her invention, an invalid feeder, designed to help amputee patients feed themselves, a gift to the French Government.

"It may seem strange to be so happy over giving away something that I spent five years and more than $3,000 perfecting," she said as she unfolded the story at her modest second-floor apartment, "but I did what I thought best."

Will Help Humanify

"I tried for many months to give it to the United States government for use in Veterans' hospitals, and also to commercialize it, but had no success. So, if the French can use it, I'm glad to give it to the French government to help humanity," she added.

The story of Miss Blount's invalid feeder is one of trial, tribulation, disappointment, and now happiness in her knowledge that somebody somewhere will get some benefit from her humble efforts.

She valued the feeder, which was patented in Washington on April 24, 1951 as a "portable receptacle supports," at $100,000, with thousands of dollars of profits possible had the invention been commercialized.

Turned Down by VA

On Aug. 6, last, after her offer to the Veterans Administration had been turned down. Miss Blount made a loan of the feeder to the French Army for experimentation in French military hospitals. Subsequently, she gave it to them, granting the French Government exclusive use of it.

Several days ago the transaction was completed when Lt. Col. Roger Lequay, military attache at the French Embassy, Washington, D.C., wrote:

"May I thank you again on behalf of my government for your generous gift." He added that he would keep her informed of the developments in use of the feeder.

Miss Blount was in a thankful mood, too, extending special thanks to all those who helped her and especially the Newark Branch NAACP, Father Divine and the International Peace Mission Movement whose interest did much in making this gift invention available to the world.

Aid to Helpless Patients

Specifically, the feeder is a device which enables a helpless patient to eat or drink any type of food while in any hospitalized position without the aid of a nurse or attendant.

A complete meal may be served by use of a compartment adaptor. An attachable dish adaptor is provided for semi-helpless or armless patients desiring to use hand prothesis in rehabilitation. There also is a twin glass adaptor attachment for the consumption of liquids including medications.

The adaptor to feed solids is electrically operated and controlled to deliver a mouthful that the patient would normally consume. The food is delivered directly into the mouth of the patient who regulates the feeding process by biting on a switch which controls the food through a spoon-shaped tube. To permit time for chewing and digestion the feeder shuts off automatically after each mouthful is delivered.

French to Experiment

The French Army will experiment, and further develop the feeding apparatus for use in French military hospitals.

Dr. Malcolm I. MacEachern, director-emeritus of the American College of Surgeons, endorsed the feeder and said, "I regard it as a most ingenious apparatus." Other hospital authorities have praised it.

However, after working three years for an appointment with the Veterans Administration authorities, which finally was granted after a request from Congressman Rodino, of Newark, Miss Bount was told that VA hospitals had enough nurses and aides to give the "kind of personal care which such persons needed."

Paul B. Maguson, then chief medical director of VA, on July 14, 1951, wrote Miss Blount that the automatic invalid feeder was "impractical from the viewpoint of stability" and that "hand feeding by nursing and attendant personnel is the most satisfactory method."

Schocked by Rejection

This shocked Miss Blount as she had invented the feeder in the belief that the Army and veterans' hospitals were in need of such an apparatus.

She was teaching educational therapy at Bronx Hospital NYC when a physician suggested: "I

ments in rehabilitation work with amputees, several of whom she has taught to type with their feet.

d patients reacting
s which a commer-
dy has agreed to
ial firm already
manufacture.

A native of Hick
Blount attended sch
Va. and Rahway, N.
ior College, Cranfor
College of Physic
East Orange, and
physio-therapy in C
She recently was
wonder woman" fo

you really want to do something to help these boys, why don't you make something by which they can feed themselves." He reminded her that the Army had tried in vain to perfect a self-feeding device.

Miss Blount told the doctor "I'll do that, too." She had no idea how she would do it, but with a "dream and the help of God," she worked hard. Her workshop was the kitchen of her home. He first

Called 'Wonder Woman'

"Other things" with her means putees and more inventions—her latest being a specially construct-

SECOND MODEL T:

N. Y. Inventor Patents New Car-Plane Device

SCHENECTADY, N.Y. — The second Model T is in the making. And the inventor, Edward H. Page, says that it presages a new era in U.S. transportation and is likely to end traffic jams here and in other places.

Page's invention is an auto-helicopter for which he already has a U.S. patent — No. 2,424,769. This new device is a combination automobile, which will take off from the road or driveway and then soar over other cars, and a plane which will land in a driveway or parking lot.

The propellers of this craft may be detached from the driving shaft through a universal, and the rear or driving wheels attached through interlocking gears for highway use. To get the overhead propellers out of the way, it is rotated so that it points toward the rear and locks in place.

Although he has no technical training, Page has spent about 44 years planning and working on his device. A few years ago he made a hand-operated model and found that it worked. He then decided to have it patented.

Page's chief problem now is finding someone to finance his machine. He is willing to sell the patent outright. If this proves to be difficult, some Albany businessmen have promised to furnish capital to help get the helicopter on the market.

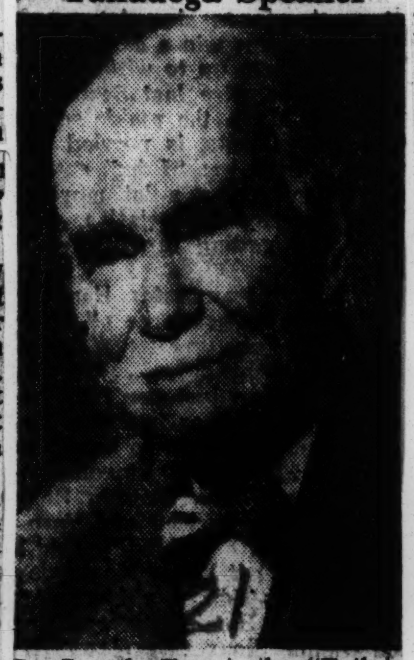
Born in Virginia, Page has worked in coal mines in West Virginia, did portering and ice cream making and about "everything else" in New York, Ohio, New Jersey, and for the past six years here in Schenectady.

Father of Eight Children

In his spare time he worked on his invention. He believes that his machine will be light weight, can be made of cheap, light materials and will be a gold mine for whoever puts it into mass production. Mrs. Page says that "the man who puts this out will be a second Henry Ford."

Page lives with his wife and eight children at 768 Bailey St. He is 54 years old. He explained that his patent rights are very broad, covering the entire field of combination autogyro and automobile. He says his vehicle will fit into any garage and can be used for a large variety of trips.

Talladega Speaker



Dr. Lee de Forest, the "Father of Radio," who began his long series of significant inventions at Talladega College, who returned to the campus to give the commencement address on Monday, June 4. Seventy-seven-year-old Dr. de Forest holds about 300 patents and still has more inventions to add to the long list now to his credit.

Savannah Prof. Builds Specimen Storage Vat

SAVANNAH, Ga. — Dr. B. T. Griffith, professor of Biology, and Chairman of the Savannah State College Biology Department, recently designed, and had built, an original "all in one specimen vat," for the purpose of storing preserved specimens in the biology laboratory.

An article explaining the construction and use of the vat, along with pictures of it, appear in the July issue of Turtox News, a biological magazine published by the General Biological Supply House, Inc., of Chicago. The magazine is read by biologists all over America and in several foreign countries.

Dr. Griffith states that the problem of adequate storage space for preserved biological specimens has always troubled him.

USE OF the vat eliminates the use of all museum jars, cans and other storage utensils ordinarily used to store preserved specimens.

Further, it is covered with a fume-proofed lid made of the same material as the vat, which prevents nauseating odors from penetrating the entire building.

21 1951

...y Be 'Fastest Afloat'

Veteran Designs Automotive Boat'

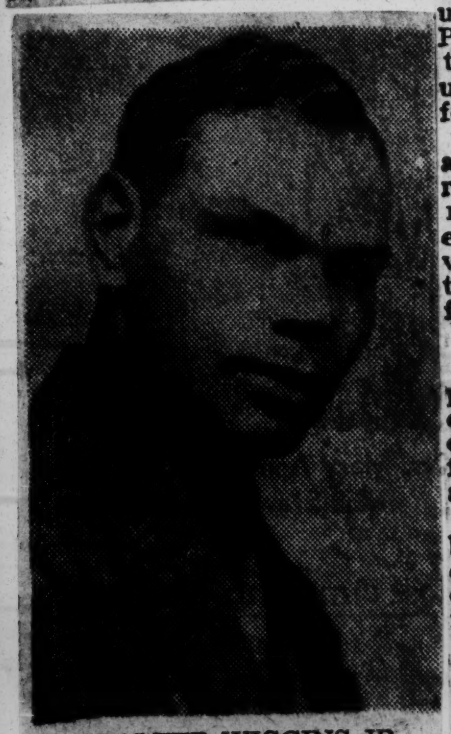
WASHINGTON—A design for what might be the "automotive boat" of the future, invented by Walter Wiggins Jr., a resident of Beaver Heights, Md., has been filed with the United States Patent Office here in the capital. Wiggins is of the opinion that a vessel under his design and power plan might well become the fastest ever put afloat.

He refers to the vessel he has designed as a marine hydro-vessel. In the overall shape of an automobile but long streamline type aerodynamic and hydrodynamic features are combined to give it the least resistance to wind and wave.

The keel of the vessel is also built along "least-resistance" lines in order to lessen water drag of the boat under power. The upper structure contains a navigation cabin built into the main structure of the vessel.

Another feature of the keel is that on either side of the center portion is what appears to be stabilizers. The over-all impression of the design seems to be that of a bullet-like hull grooved on the underparts for fast surface traction.

Wiggins is a war veteran, and over a number of years has worked on several other projects which he hopes to patent. Patent application on this latest of his inventions was made last September.



WALTER WIGGINS JR.
... designs revolutionary boat

GOOD NEWS FOR FARMERS:

Engineer Invents New Freezing Unit

CHICAGO (ANP)—Frederick M. Jones, 56-year-old chief engineer for the United States Thermo Control Company in Minneapolis, came up with a new invention at the Palmer House here last week for the improvement of refrigeration units which his company produces for railroads and highway carriers.

The device will be installed soon as standard equipment on portable refrigeration units for both railroad cars and truck trailers. It will enable shippers of fresh fruits and vegetables to bring their products to market with their orignial freshness.

Holds 40 Patents

Jones, who holds more than 40 patents on refrigeration and air conditioning devices, is an example of a "self-taught" engineer. His formal education ended in the sixth grade.

His flair for mechanics dates back to 1911 when he was building or helping build dirt track race cars for component of other cars in a garage in Cincinnati.

Later he went to Hallock, Minn., near the Canadian border where he learned to operate all types of farm machinery.

Between 1914 and 1925, Jones achieved fame as a top-dirt track race car driver under the sobriquet of "Casey" Jones. He set several records at county fairs and half-mile tracks throughout the country, many of which still stand.

Skilled in Electronics

Turning his attention wholly toward mechanics and engineering, Jones first opened up a radio business in Hallock and later launched experiments with motion picture sound equipment.

As a result of his skill in electronics, he landed a job with Joseph A. Numerous, president of the Thermo company, who at that time was in the motion picture equipment business in Minneapolis.

A chance order for a truck refrigeration unit which Jones had designed and build, caused Numerous to shift from production of motion picture equipment to portable refrigeration units. The present company was formed as a result.

GOOD NEWS FOR FARMERS:

Engineer Invents New Freezing Unit

CHICAGO (ANP)—Frederick M. Jones, 56-year-old chief engineer for the United States Thermo Control Company in Minneapolis, came up with a new invention at the Palmer House here last week for the improvement of refrigeration units which his company produces for railroads and highway carriers.

The device will be installed soon as standard equipment on portable refrigeration units for both railroad cars and truck trailers. It will enable shippers of fresh fruits and vegetables to bring their products to market with their orignial freshness.

Holds 40 Patents

Jones, who holds more than 40 patents on refrigeration and air conditioning devices, is an example of a "self-taught" engineer. His formal education ended in the sixth grade.

His flair for mechanics dates back to 1911 when he was building or helping build dirt track race cars for component of other cars in a garage in Cincinnati.

Later he went to Hallock, Minn., near the Canadian border where he learned to operate all types of farm machinery.

Between 1914 and 1925, Jones achieved fame as a top-dirt track race car driver under the sobriquet of "Casey" Jones. He set several records at county fairs and half-mile tracks throughout the country, many of which still stand.

Skilled in Electronics

Turning his attention wholly toward mechanics and engineering, Jones first opened up a radio business in Hallock and later launched experiments with motion picture sound equipment.

As a result of his skill in electronics, he landed a job with Joseph A. Numerous, president of the Thermo company, who at that time was in the motion picture equipment business in Minneapolis.

A chance order for a truck refrigeration unit which Jones had designed and build, caused Numerous to shift from production of motion picture equipment to portable refrigeration units. The present company was formed as a result.

MATTRESS INVENTOR

James A. Griffin has invented andpatented a reversible mattress which has made it appearance in 12 Chicago furniture stores. Tufted on one side, untufted on the other, his mattress is equipped with 20 air vents so it "can inhale and exhale just like you and me." A boon to sick people, the mattress can be reversed to its hard or soft sides depending on what the doctor orders. The 26 year old, Memphis-born inventor is selling his mattress, now factory made, on a royalty basis.

Ebony. Vol. 6: No.6
April,1951. p.4

Freedmen's Nurse Contrives Boot For Use In Amputations

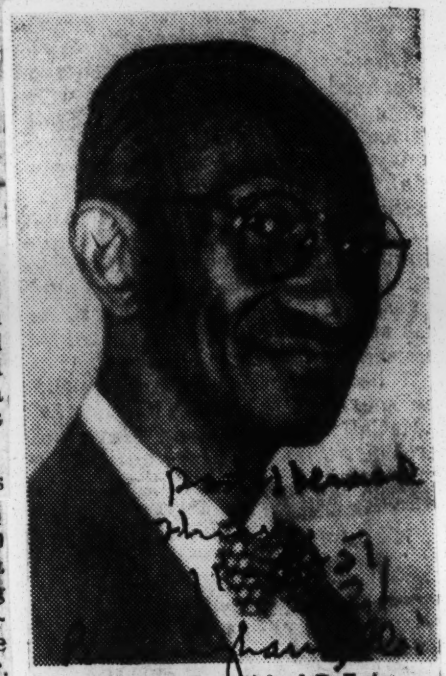
WASHINGTON—(A N P)— Miss Charlotte K. May, assistant to the director of Freedmen's hospital, made use of a few hours of her spare time recently to fashion a plastic boot for use in amputations which is designed to hasten the freezing of the limb.

A veteran of 23 years of services on the hospital nursing staff, Miss May got the idea for her invention from a magazine article. She used materials provided by the hospital and constructed the boot within a few hours, incorporating some ideas of her own.

The device slips over a patient's foot and leg and is tied with a drawstring at the hip. About 150 pounds of ice can be packed in it around the leg, and foot, freezing the limb in preparation for amputation. After the ice is inserted the boot is closed with a long zipper. A tube in the foot section, drains off melted ice into a container.

This method allows a quicker freezing of the limb. Previously, ice had to be held around a patient's leg by blankets, a freezing process which took about four days. The boot accomplishes it in 48 hours.

Inaddition, the boot keeps the patient and bed free from melting ice and helps speedy recovery.



HE HAD AN IDEA— Thomas Woods received $125 for an idea that will save the Air Force thousands of dollars.

Idea Brings Him $125, To Save U.S. Thousands

How much is an idea worth?

Thomas Woods Sr., 718 10th-st, n, Negro employe of the Air Force here, had one worth $125 in cash for himself, and worth thousands of dollars for the Air Force.

Woods recently developed a plan to improve maintenance and appearance of asphalt-tile floors for the Air Force installation at Municipal Airport.

Lt. Col. Frederick J. Wesson, commanding officer of the 2587th Air Force Reserve Training Center at the airport, presented the check to Woods at a meeting of civilian employes. He told the group that Woods' idea "will save the government at least $3500 yearly at this installation alone."

Explains Award Plan

He explained the Air Force incentive award program to encourage "efficiency, morale and dollar-savings through the initiative of its employes."

Receiving the check, Woods addressed the group, saying, "I am proud to be an American. I know of no greater honor than to be able to say, 'I am an American,' and I consider it a great honor to be able to serve my country.

"Through four generations my family has given—through the volunteer method—soldiers."

Woods, who attended Tuskegee Institute, recalled that his grandfather fought in the Civil War. His father was a soldier in the Spanish-American War.

"I was a soldier during World War I, and my son, Thomas Woods Jr., fought with the United States Navy during World War II," he said. "As long as there is a Woods, there will be volunteers."

Gives Radio Script

Woods, who writes and narrates a religious radio script for a local radio station, is executive secretary of the Birmingham Ambassadors of Good Will, benefit promoters and community builders. He also is historian for the William D. Johnson Post 301, American Legion, and past Exalted Ruler of the Jones Valley Lodge No. 14, IBPOE of W.

"I have to work in the mornings and evenings, too," Woods said. "because I pledged long ago to see my children through college." He has three children who are college graduates, and a fourth is now attending a West Virginia college.

During World War II, he wrote and published a song, "Blue Star in Our Window Turned to Gold." A poem, "America, America My Home," which he wrote more recently, has been adopted as a theme by the 10th District of Negro American Legion, Department of Alabama.

Of his money-saving idea, Woods said: "There was a reduction in force some time ago in the floor-waxing department. Two men had to do the work of four, so I developed a method to cut the work in half. I mixed the wax and cleaner in a way that made the cleaning and waxing possible in one operation. This gave a non-skid finish to the floor, saved on both materials, and acted as a more effective preservative for the floors."

21 1952

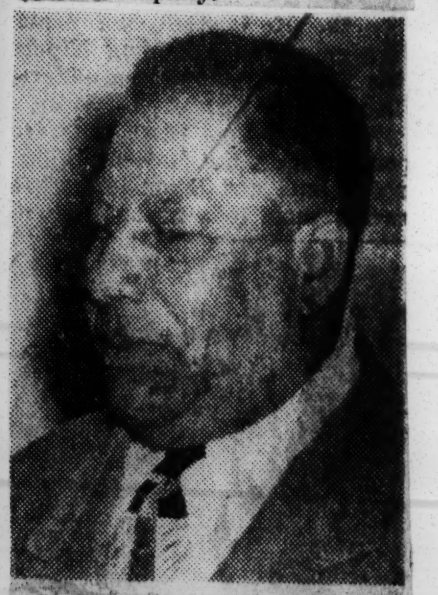
26-Year Experiment By Negro Inventor, 60, May Replace Coal as Fuel

WASHINGTON—The ingenuity of 60-year-old Henry W. Holman, Alton, Ill. chemist and inventor, may help solve the problems of the fuel-short areas of the world.

Mr. Holman, who came to town this week to conduct tests for the Bureau of Mines and representatives of several foreign countries, has developed a chemical concentrate called "Holmanite" which may prove to be substitute for the best grade coals for fuel-short areas of the world.

ACCORDING to State Department releases, "Holmanite" in extensive laboratory tests and in actual usage, has proven capable of making low grade fuels comparable to the best grades of coal.

Representatives of firms in Brazil, Venezuela, Argentina, Finland, Sweden, Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy, France, England, Western Germany and Japan, have expressed interest in Holmanite, according to officials of the Holmanite Fuel Company.



HENRY W. HOLMAN
. . . discovery replaces coal?

Company officials say that the Holmanite concentrate is used in a patented process to produce whatever quality fuel is desired and can be produced in most parts of the world.

* * *

HOLMAN, who in 1941 invented de-icing equipment which he turned over to the War Department, has spent about twenty-six years developing "Holmanite." According to reports, he gained his first success on lignite four years ago and since then has experimented with low-grade fuels from all over the world.

The recent successful experiments using fly-ash in melting steel and in blacksmithing opera-

WINS AWARD FOR SPORTS CAR DESIGN

ASBURY, N.J. (ANP)—McKinley Thompson won the 1952 Mile-O-Meter trophy for originating the best new design for a sports car.

He works as a mechanical draftsman at the Evans Signal laboratory.

New Type Umbrella Is Invented

CHICAGO — Farmers in the Deep South work under a blazing sun or in drenching rain may some day praise the name of Ulysses Thornton, 82-year-old native of Louisiana now living in Chicago. Mr. Thornton has invented "The Body Attached Umbrella," which protects the wearer from rain and sun and leves both hands free.

His daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Morris of New Orleans, says he made his first such umbrella while working as a gardener at the Flint-Goodridge Hospital in New Orleans. The invention is patented by the U. S. Patent Office, but Mr. Thornton is seeking a manufacturer.

His Device A Money-Saver

New England OPS director Joseph McDonough presents Narra I. Fields, West Medford, Mass., with an employee incentive award of $25 for devising a new system for multilithing, which OPS estimates will save $500 a year in the six-state region alone. Mr. Fields, who is married and has a year-old son, has master stamps in making up plates for multilithing referred to the Washington OPS office for national application.

Inventor Wins 10-Year-Old Patent Case

WASHINGTON

Solomon Harper, inventor, 312 St. Nicholas Ave. NYC was successful after a 10 year effort here late Monday in an appearance before the Commissioner of Patents.

Harper had beeniadvised by the patent office on Dec. 29, 1941 that certain patent claims in (a multiple) combination comb, curler, hair waver and presser were allowable.

However, he was too ill at the time to even know he had won and the patent application became technically inactive. It was finally abandoned when the application amendment arrived in the patent office one day after the deadline.

Appealed Case

He appealed the case several times in the patent office. Finally he filed notification with the commissioner Monday morning of an appeal notice to the U.S. District Federal Court.

At 4:30 the same day the 1941 allowable claims were ordered reinstated by the commissioner, in a pending similar case on thermostatic controlled combs, curlers and irons.

Harper had to represent himself due to the death of a former patent attorney, and possible loss of his case appeared likely due to the loss of an appeal to the patent office appeal board last October at which time he was not permitted to attend his own hearing. The attorney had not wired that there would be an appearance.

Patent officials were given typed and formal copies of the allowed claims for the case with legal authorities and citations late Tuesday.

He will be aided by the forthcoming court suit in halting numerous patent jumpers who are reputed to have hoodwinked the public for years saying they, not Harper were inventors of the combination.

GRAND PRIZE WINNER SHOWS HOW HIS OSCILLOSCOPE WORKS.—Of the 438 exhibits in the Greater Kansas City Science Fair this week, the entry of Artey Andrews, 17-year-old Sumner high school student from Kansas City, Kas., was judged best in the senior division's applied physicial science division, and one of the the four best entries in the entire show. He is one of the four grand prize winners who will go to Washington to represent Kansas City in the National Science Fair May 8-10. Here young Andrews is describing how to work his oscilloscope, an instrument which transforms sound to light. The oscilloscope was considered the most popular exhibit in the fair. Shown here with Andrews, left, are other students from Sumner high who entered exhibits, and their teacher, Paul L. Mobiley, chemistry teacher. Left to ri t: Andrews, Barbara Brooks who entered a cosmetics display; Gaston Boyd, paints; Barbara Redwine, resources map; Barbara Davis, seven steps in etching of glass; Rodney Alexander, single tube radio receiver, and Mobiley. Today is the final day for the Science Fair at the Kansas City Museum.

Selma Negro's Pecan Invention May Revolutionize Picking Job

SELMA, Ala., Feb. 29—A Selma Negro has come up with an invention that may revolutionize the chore of picking pecans.

Joe Bagley has invented a device that enables a person to gather thousands of nuts in an hour without touching them.

A worker can gather nuts as swiftly as his arm can go up and down with the device.

The device looks much like a broom. It has a wooden handle attached to a container which has a bottom. The bottom consists of six to ten steel, springy wires running parallel to one another.

When a person is gathering nuts, he merely has to hit the nut with the bottom of the device.

The impact of the wires hitting the nuts causes the wires to spread and catches the nuts in between.

The wires then pop the nuts into the container and spring together again. Five to ten nuts can be gathered at a time with the device.

Bagley thought of the idea while a patient at the Veterans Hospital in Tuskegee. He received a patent on the device on April 17, 1951 but he has not secured a manufacturer.

Bagley's other inventions have includes a fireplace grate shovel. and a masonry wall tie for construction purposes.

He operates a barbecue stand and does masonry work in Selma.

NEGRO INVENTS NUT PICKER—Joe Bagley, Selma Negro, is shown with the nut picking device which he invented and patented. Bagley also has invented other items but none of them have reached the manufacturing stage. He thinks the nut picker will be the "most successful" of all his brainstorms.

Automobile Refrigerator Production Is Started

By JOHN A. DIAZ

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla.—A mechanical device which will revolutionize auto riding convenience, the "Midget Frigit," was started in production here last week by its inventor, Locksley Thompson, a liquor store owner.

The inventor, a native of the Bahamas, who has been living in Florida ever since he was thirteen years old, predicts that within a short time 75 per cent of all automobile drivers will have the contrivance installed in their cars.

Observers are of the belief that the gadget will bring the inventor no less than a million dollars within a year.

"MIDGET FRIGIT" is a small ice refrigerator installed under the automobile dashboard. It holds forty or more ice cubes in its rear compartments. The cubes will last from seven to nine hours. You can turn a spigot for ice water, and there are compartments provided for holding bottles or glasses for ice cold drinks.

Mr. Thompson, who owns a liquor store at 2007 North Tammering Avenue, in this city, has engaged the services of Atty. Charles Fulton to handle the patenting.

The Boys Roofing and Sheet Metal Works, Inc., has begun manufacturing the "Frigits" and a few already are in use in different parts of the states, even though manufacturing did not start until last week.

Insulated, to preserve the ice for several hours, the device, made of stainless steel, is about eight inches deep and nine inches wide and fits snugly under the dashboard without interfering with any of the other driver's dashboard instruments. It will be sold for approximately $24.

Mr. Thompson's wife is Evelyn Nell. They have a daughter, Ethel Delores, living in New York.

MR. AND MRS. LOCKSLEY THOMPSON

A WOMAN AND AN IDEA

French Officials Accept Gift Of N. J. Inventor

Afro-American P. 1 & 2

An Inventor With A Smile

WASHINGTON

Faced with the indifference of her own countrymen, Miss Bessie J. Blount, Newark N.J., has found the French Government much more receptive to an invention that cost her five years in time and $3,000 in funds.

On Monday Miss Blount kept an appointment at the French Embassy, where she signed several documents giving the French Government the right to use her automatic invalid feeder, free of all royalities.

Miss Blount first presented the machine to the French last November, and it has been used in French military hospitals since that time.

Legal Details Cleared

The signing ceremonies were to clear up certain technical legal matters arising out of a transaction between an American citizen and a foreign government.

It also marked a justification of the time and energy Miss Blount spent with her machine, and helped to ease the memory of some of the discouragements she has known.

Even though she will not receive any money from the French, Miss Blount feels that she has made a definite contribution to the progress of her people by proving:

"A colored woman is capable of inventing something for the benefit of mankind."

For Helpless Patients

The feeder is a device which enables a helpless patient to eat or drink any type of food while in any hospitalized position without the aid of a nurse or attendant.

Sat. 9-6-52

Solid food is placed in a three compartment adaptor which is electrically controlled to deliver a mouthful of food at a time. The patient regulates the feeding by biting on a switch attached to the spoon-shaped tube, which delivers the food to the parent's mouth.

Miss Blount designed the machine after a physician at the Bronx Hospital, NYC, where she worked as a physiotherapist, suggested that she invent a machine so that invalids could feed themselves

Waited Three Years

When the machine was completed, Miss Blount spent three years arranging an interview with Veterans Administration authorities. After a request from a Congressman, Miss Blount received interview, but was informed that the VA considered the machine "impractical."

Not discouraged, Miss Blount made arrangements with the French for the machine bo be used in military hospitals.

So far the machine has lived up to Miss Blount's anticipations and she regarded the ceremony on Monday as an assurance the machine is being used by the French.

Miss Blount, who lives at 519 Hawthorne ave., Newark, is a certified physiotherapist. She is a native of Hickory, Va., and attended schools in Norfolk Va., and Rahway N.J.; Union Junior College Cranford, N.J., Panzer College of Physical Education, East Orange, N.J., and also studied phsiotherapy in Chicago.

After signing the final documents granting the French Government the right to use her invalid feeder free of all royalties. Miss Bessie J. Blount, physiotherapist of Newark, N.J. leaves the French Embassy, evidently happy about the transaction.

Afro-American P. 1 & 2
Sat. 9-6-52

21 1953

N. B. Wilson, Savannah Inventor, Gets Patent

By ALBERT MARY THWEATT

SAVANNAH, Ga. — Nathan B. Wilson, native of Estill, S. C., and resident here for 41 years, has just received notice from the U. S. Department of Patents in Washington, D. C., acknowledging him as the inventor of a new type of waxer.

The idea of this important invention came to Wilson while he was an employee of the Seaboard Airline railway where it was his job to keep the floors waxed and polished. It was a back-breaking job, such as he was forced at that time to do it, filled only with drudgery and aches and pains which made him wince throughout his daily chores.

MAKES STUDY

After eight long hard months of study Wilson finally perfected an implement which sands floors, applies wax paste and polishes without so much hard work. Acting upon advice of enthusiastic fellow workers and John Meek, a draftsman for the Patent office, he submitted drawings to the Patent office and also a request that he be acknowledged as the inventor.

Another gentleman who aided him greatly was L. B. Toomer, president of Carver's Saving Bank who had advised the former Seaboard Airline employee not to sell this hand gadget, but instead get a group of men to sponsor the project.

COMPANY FORMED

This was done almost immediately and out of this action came the Bay Manufacturing company with George S. May serving as first president. J. E. Luten is president of the concern now. Then models of the device have been completed for demonstration and is now hailed by all who have seen it as the only one of its kind. They say it spreads wax uniformly and reaches all corners and under the furniture without the former back-breaking efforts.

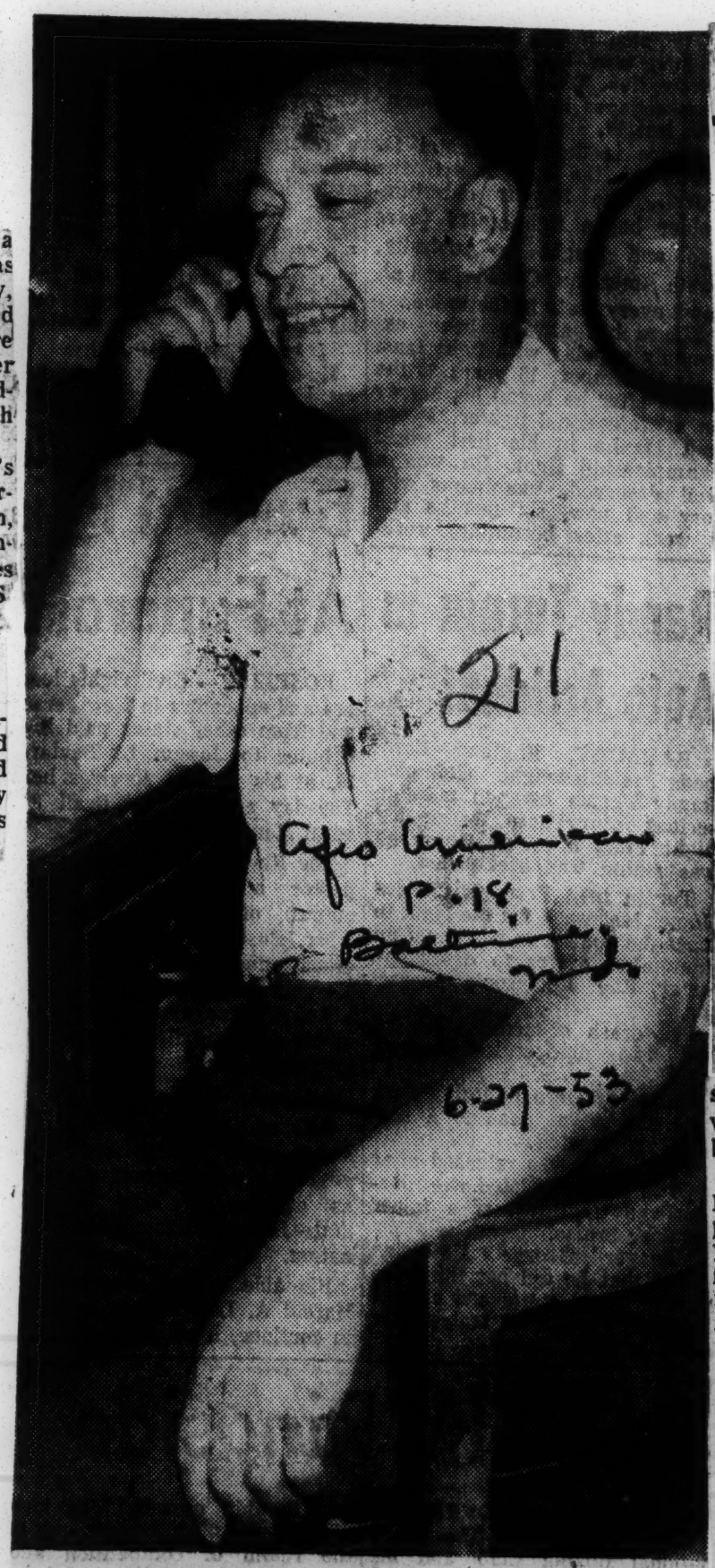
INVENTOR FETED

Last week Mr. Wilson was given a testimonial befitting that of a successful inventor. Serving as toastmaster was George S. May, and the inventor was presented by L. B. Toomer. Short talks were made by the president and other officers of the company including J. J. Garrison, Coy Futch and St. Louis Ponder.

Members of the company's board of directors are Futch, Garrison, J. G. Graves, Carl Harden, William Howell, Russell Lavender, Luten, Ponder, J. L. Stokes Toomer, Festus Bailey, George S Hall and the inventor.

Electrician Invents Pool Game Recorder

LOS ANGELES — (ANP) — Wendell P. Saunders electrician and owner of the only Negro owned motor shop in California, recently invented a machine which records pool games for billiard parlors.



TOP AWARD WINNER — Elmer P. Riddick of 523 Cumberland st., Norfolk, Va., who invented a 14 by 18 feet camera which snaps pictures 42 inches wide and 15 feet high, has been awarded $275 for this invention. During the past 11 years, he has received $1,770 in awards for his time and money saving suggestions.

Nortolkian Saved Govt. Thousands Of Dollars

NORFOLK, Va. — An experimental photographer at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Elmer P. Riddick, of 523 Cumberland st. has been paid $1,770 for his suggestion estimated to have saved the government thousands of dollars during his 26 years of service.

Riddick is credited with ideas that produce a more rapid method of making tracings, changing developer and fixing power sizes from pound packages to 30 gallon containers.

Improving the efficiency of the blueprint room to increase reproduction, modifying the coating machinery by the addition of drying facilities to permit faster speeds, and devising a quicker method for making See Bee tracings are many other ideas.

Champion Of All

H. M. Gunn, suggestion specialist in the Industrial Relations dept., said that Riddick may well claim distinction as champion of all shipyard suggestors.

He has submitted an average of one suggestion every month for the past six years and it is said that not a single piece of equipment in the reproduction section, where Riddick is supervisor, has not been improved by one of his suggestions.

Riddick was born in Hertford, N. C. and says he is over 50. He attended night school at Booker T. high. Later he studied chemistry and took a correspondence course in photographic chemistry.

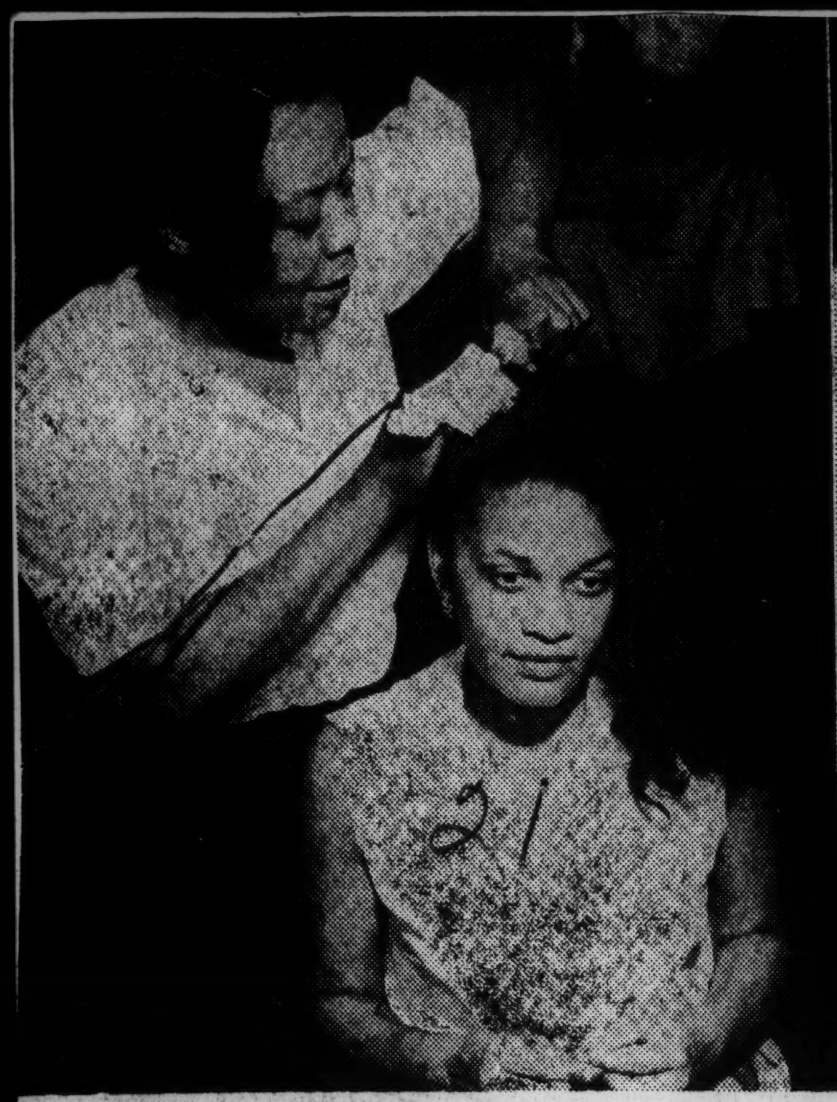
He started to work in the shipyard as a boy and later became a shipfitter. He has served in the department continuously since 1931 and is now supervisor.

May Reach $2,000 Mark

Various sums paid Riddick for his suggestion have ranged from $5 to $275. At present he has six suggestions under review and it is possible that he may have awards past the $2,000 mark.

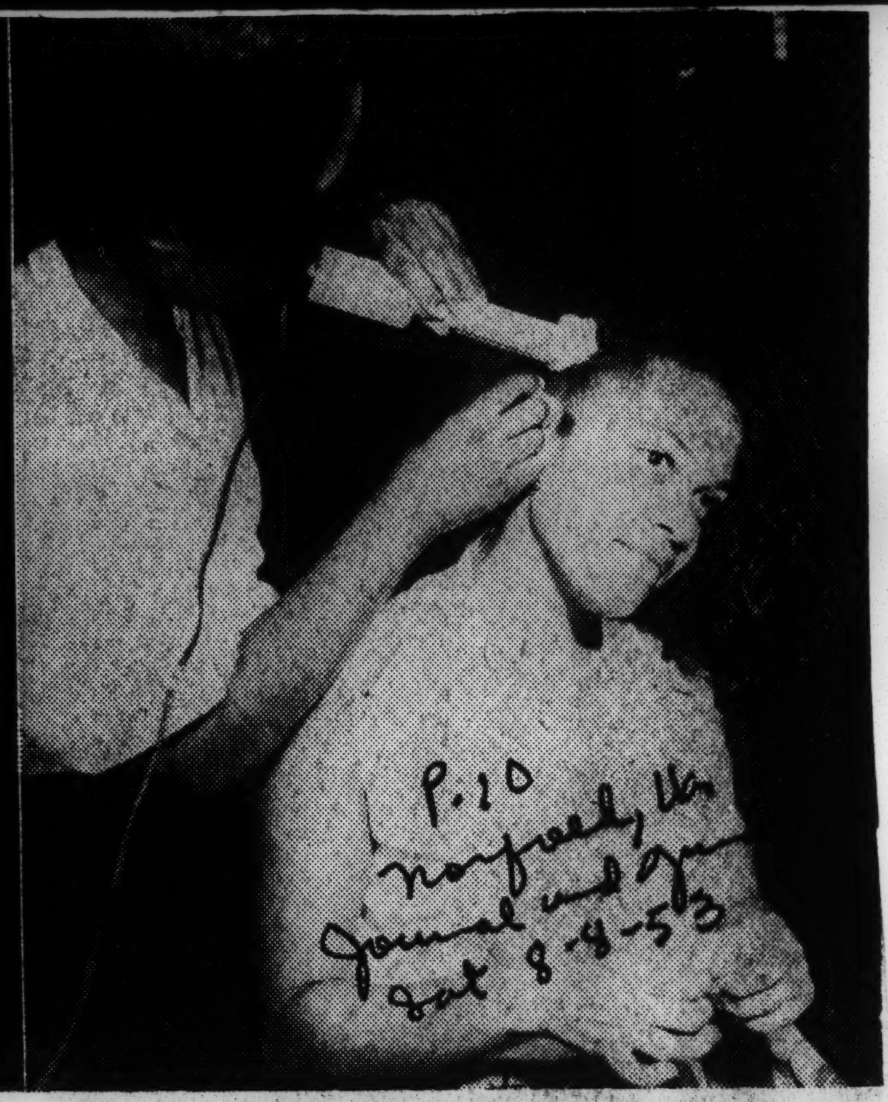
He married the former Miss Lola Land, daughter of the late Walter Land, attorney, who is now one of the 35 employees under him in the reproduction section of the shipyard.

They have three children, Maria 17; Elmer Preston Jr., 12, and Vera Marvann. 7.



OIL FLOWS THROUGH COMB—Miss Bessie Blount, formerly of Norfolk, now of Newark, N. J., demonstrates her new invention, an oil applicator, on Mrs. Ophelia Cooke, Guide reporter.

Slight pressure on the plastic bottle in the palm of the hand sends just enough oil to the scalp as the hair is being combed.



REMOVING EXCESS OIL—A wad of absorbent cotton in the hook at the end of the device easily removes any excess oil in the hair. Miss Blount has the patent on her invention.

The device may be plugged into the nearest outlet if the user desires hot oil treatment. Oil reaches certain temperature, stays there.

"Crowning Glory" Problems Aided By Former Norfolkian

By EVELYN M. SWANN

NORFOLK—Because a girl with one arm complained of not being able to successfully oil her hair, Miss Bessie Blount, formerly of Norfolk, and now of Newark, N. J., went into a huddle in her kitchen with parts of a hair brush, comb, a plastic bottle, and an electric heating unit, and came up with an invention which would not only do the job of hair oiling for the one-armed girl, but which would also be a boon to all women who shy away from the messy job of oiling their hair.

Miss Blount has already obtained a patent on her latest invention, and the hot oil comb is being demonstrated in various beauty shops in Tidewater by the inventor, who is home on a brief vacation with relatives and friends of Norfolk.

THE DEVICE is amazing in its simplicity. It works like this: Oil or brilliantine is poured into the plastice bottle, then the comb, which is attached to a hollow tube, is inserted into the neck of the bottle. The comb is then ready for use, provided the user is not interested in a hot oil treatment at this stage.

The user then begins combing her hair and at the same time she may give the plastic bottle a little pressure which will send the oil flowing through several of the hollow teeth in the comb. Attached to the back of the comb is a stiff brush and this may be used to brush the hair after the oil has been applied.

If the user decides on a hot oil treatment, an electrical heating element is inserted in the bottle and the cord is then plugged into the nearest outlet. The oil is heated to a certain temperature, and the user goes through the same motions previously described.

At the very end of the devide is a hook for placing a wad of absorbent cotton, which can be used to massage the oil into the scalp.

For milady who is turning gray—prematurely, of course—this new device is just the thing for a neat color touch-up job. Instead of placing oil in the plastic bottle, hair tint may be substituted, and this may be combed through the hair where it is needed at various places.

Here, again the cotton comes in handy if the tint decides to run a wee bit.

Miss Blount, who speaks Yiddish very fluently, is hopeful of putting her invention on the market so that the price will be within reach of even the smallest of wage earners.

A former nurse, this petite inventor also has to her credit an Invalid Feeder, which enables an invalid to feed himself without the use of his hands. The new device was presented to France.

During her career Miss Blount has taught disabled veterans to write with their feet as well as their teeth. She attended Woodbridge High School in New Jersey and majored in psychology at Union Junior College in Cranford, N. J. She then studied physiotheraphy in Chicago.

At the conclusion of her vacation here, Miss Blount will make an appearance on a New York show, "The Big Idea," where she will show another of her inventions. But until the show comes off, Miss Blount is not talking about this big idea of hers. Evidently, this new invention of hers is a honey, because the producers of the show went over it carefully and considered it worthy enough for a T-V showing.

21 1954

UNCLE SAMUEL'S SCIENTISTS:

Inventor, research writer win praise

WASHINGTON (ANP) — Two employees have recently made outstanding contributions in their respective fields at the Bureau of Standards, according to an announcement made this week by E. Frederic Morrow, adviser on business affairs to the Department of Commerce.

J. J. Carter, a chemist in the leather laboratory of the BOS, has invented a leather flexing machine, and Mrs. Ann T. Nelms, a nuclear physicist, has written a very technical book of mathematical formulas.

It is said that Carter's machine, which will be used to measure the flexing endurance in leather, will revolutionize the leather industry. Through the use of this machine the differences in leather can be determined.

Determines Wearability

It breaks down the leather to the extent that the durability due to exposure can be determined as well as the different types of lubrications needed, its sensitivity to various climates and its flexibility.

Mr. Carter, who has been employed at the bureau for 11 years, says he has worked on this experiment for two or three years and work on the machine is still in progress.

A spokesman for the bureau said the invention was created chiefly for testing leather to be used in shoes purchased by the armed forces, but the leather industry has requested permission for its use.

Anything invented for the government is usually made available for private industry if it desires its use, said the spokesman.

South Carolina Native

Mr. Carter is a native of Hopkins, S.C., and received his education at Benedict college. He has done further study in the evening classes at Howard university and has pursued training in his field at inter-training courses offered at the Bureau of Standards.

He is employed in the organic and fiber material research laboratory of the leather section and is married but has no children.

Mrs. Nelms A. Georgian

Mrs. Nelms is a young physicist only 25 years old. She is a native of Waycross, Ga., and received her B.S. and M.S. degrees in mathematics from Howard university, the latter degree being earned in 1950.

She works with graph computation data to be used by the Atomic Energy Commission. She is married and the mother of one child.

Man invents automatic light for ladies' handbags

CHARLESTON, S.C. — If you happen to see a woman with an automatic light in her purse shortly, it's a good chance that Hzekiah Aikens, a Charleston shoe repairer with a flair for inventions, had something to do with it.

Mr. Aikens received the idea several months ago after driving a woman friend of the family home. He said it seemed as if she would never find her door key which was hidden among the typical items in a woman's purse.

* * *

ON THE RETURN trip home, Mr. Aikens said that he told himself that "these women ought to have lights in their purses so that they could find door keys and etc. and not keep a tired man waiting at night."

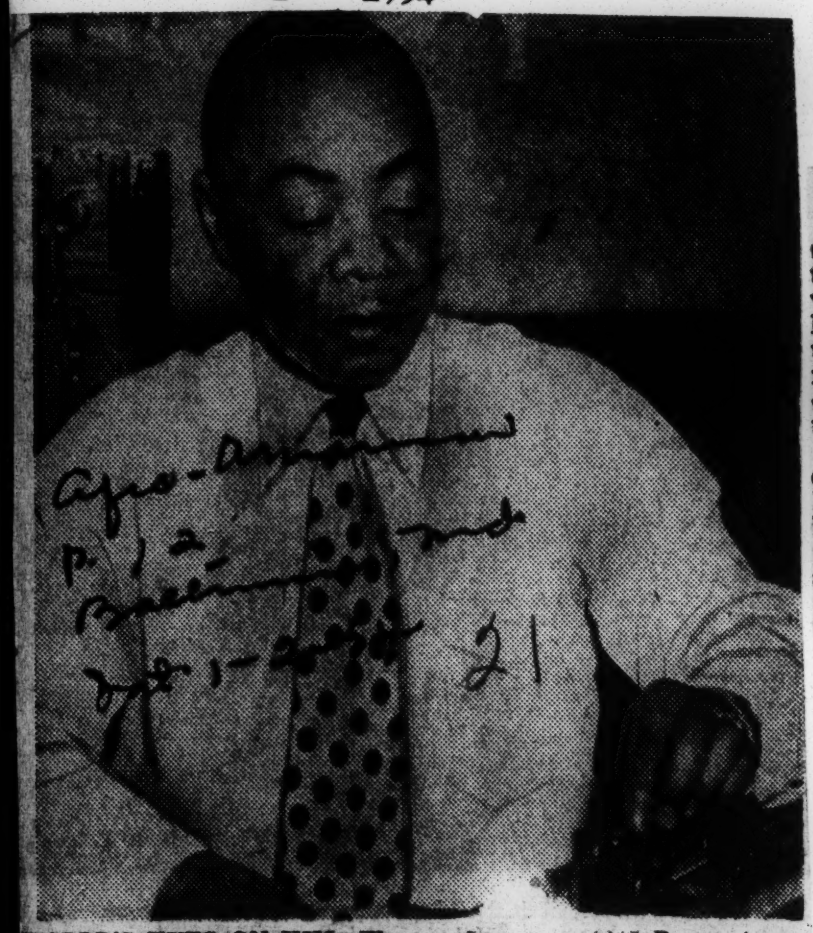
His solution to the problem of the tired man waiting for the woman to find her keys and woman herself, finding them by trial and error, was a small light powered by two small flashlight batteries, connected to a switch which turned the light on whenever the purse opened.

After installing his invention in several ladies' handbags, he showed samples to his friends. The response was so great that he decided to go into competitive business.

MR. AIKENS hired a Washington lawyer to secure a patent on his invention. At this point, the inventor ran into trouble. The lawyer informed him that several similar devices ave been recorded in the Bureau of Patents, but none exactly like his.

He is planning to sell his invention to some firm making ladies handbags if possible. But for the time being, he is aiding desperate husbands and boy friends by installing the automatic light in their favorite lady's purse during his spare time.

21 1954



WORLD'S EYES ON HIM—Thomas J. ... chemist (physical) at the Burea of ...nents watching this new machine whic... ...res the flexibilty of shoe leather. It t... ... the job.

Perry st., ne, ... conti... meas... ...rs to

This new approach to fundamental notions in Arithmetic and related subjects make the calculating manual serve as a stimulus to learning them.

Invents Calculator

BATON ROUGE, La., — Leroy R. Posey Sr., member o the American Association of Inventors, and retired in 1950 as head of department of mathematics at Southern University, is receiving wide acclaim for his calculator, an invention used by teachers of mathematics.

The device is made up of ideas of Napier's Slats and Mr. Posey's combination slide board. Presently used by teachers in Louisiana and in Mississippi, the calculator is being observed and appraised by leading universities.

Instructor Receiving Acclaim For Invention Used In Math.

BATON ROUGE, La.—Leroy R. Posey, Sr., a member of the American Association of Inventors, and retired in 1950 as Head of Department of Mathematics at Southern University, is receiving wide acclaim for his Calculator, an invention used by teachers of Mathematics.

The device is made up of ideas of Napier's Slats and Mr. Posey's combination slide board. Presently used by teachers in Louisiana and in Mississippi the calculator is being observed and appraised by some of our leading universities in the country.

With the calculator manual and slide board, Posey has succeeded with his invention, in that, it gives new and far more reaching application, in a most astounding manner to number operations and number relationships.

It is a tool which reduces to seconds the time required in many operations in Arithmetic, particularly in multiplication, division and percentage, and is to persons on the elementary level what the slide rule is to persons capable of using it.

Simple rules and illustrated examples are given for students varying from the elementary level to freshman college standing or better. The manual may be used very advantageously by the industrial worker or by the business man when he is away from the calculating machine in his office, or it may be used by statisticians, busy teachers, principals, and supervisors who make monthly report. It is a self helping device of the first magnitude.

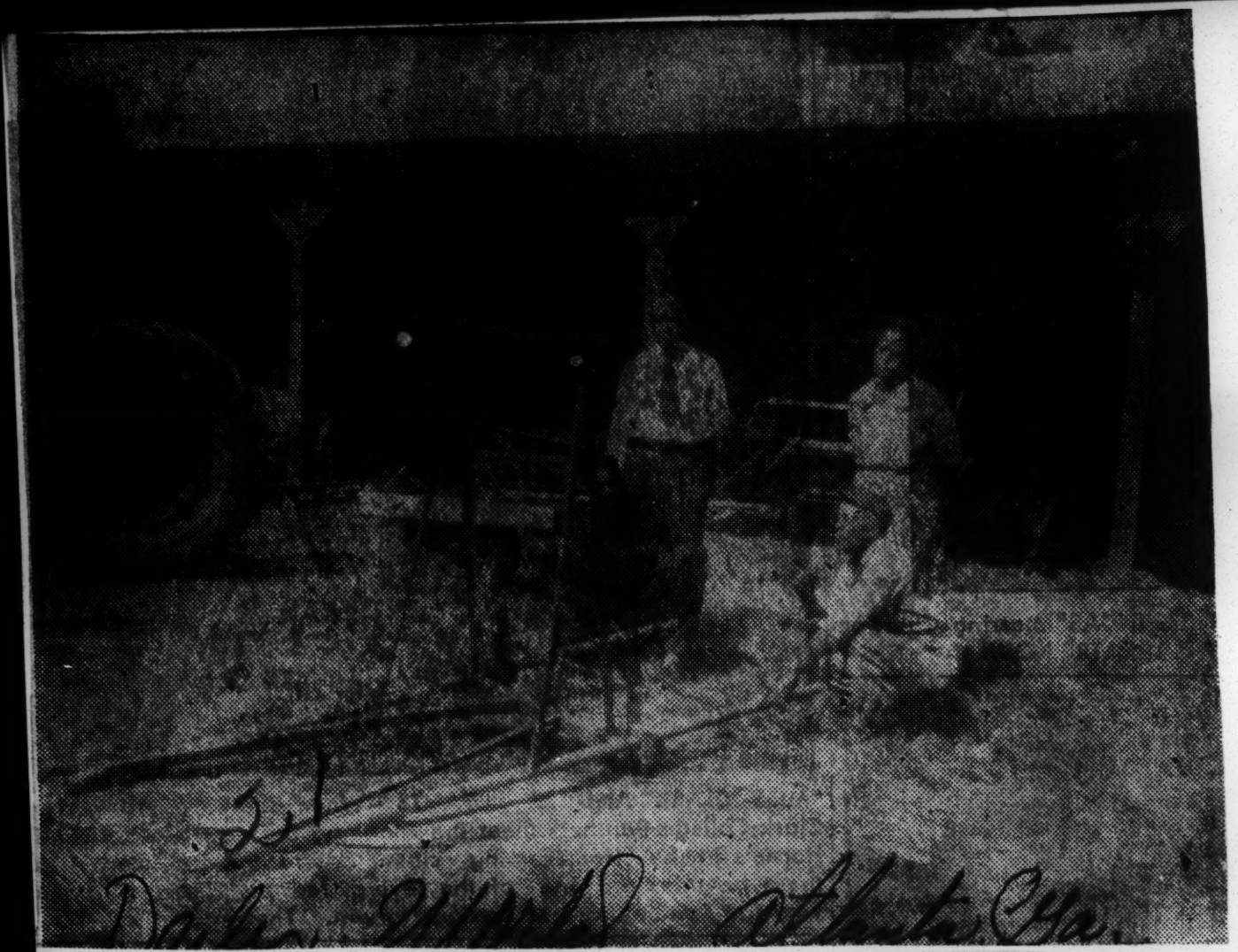
Because of the play and game elements connected with it, the calculating manual, challenges the attention and interest of anyone with average literary ability.

Gets Patent On New Gas Burner

NEW YORK — John Hobbs, 45, has received a patent on water heating gas burner. He also has applied for patents for 11 more inventions, eight in Canada and USA.

The inventions include five water heaters, three gas burners, two steam boilers, some low and high pressure boilers for factories and ships, and combustion steam gas and hot water heaters.

The inventor says these devices will save enough fuel in a short time to pay for themselves. Hobbs says the inventions are specially designed for restaurants, hotels, cafeterias, lunch stands, frankfurter griddle, coffee urns, steam tables, boilers, cook stoves, water heaters, furnace, rotisserie burner, laundry heaters. They are readily adaptable for homes, factory and ships.



serves to lift and carry stacks of dried peanu still on the vines to a nearby peanut picker in th field. Mr. Flowers operates a 356-acre divers fied farm on which peanuts are only one o many crops. Others include soybeans, cotto pecans, corn, hay and livestock. She has tw tractors, a combine, and a hay baler. No some of the implements under the machin shed.—USDA Photo.

FARMER MAKES OWN PEANUT CONVEYER—As peanut harvesting gets underway, Walter F. Flowers, stooping at right, of Fort Valley, Ga., proudly shows off his homemade peanut stack lifter and conveyor attachment. Looking on are County Agent Robert T. Church, stooping; State Extension Supervisor P. H. Stone, and Mrs. Flowers. Like the store - bought attachments, his device fastens to the back of a tractor and

21 1954

Says Patent Office owes him a million

NEW YORK—Solomon Harper, industrial engineer, last week showed his claim here against the U.S. Patent Office for one million dollars.

Previous claims had been filed against the office by Mr. Harper who claims that since 1911, the department did not protect patent rights on many of his inventions.

He is a former member of the National Technical association, an associate member of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers and a member of the Technology club of Syracuse.

DESIGNS LABOR SAVING DEVICE — John A. Weems, left, a laborer at the Beltsville, Md. Research Center of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, designed the U shaped labor saving device shown in the picture. For this achievement, he was given a within-grade salary increase of $80 a year. Mr. Weems is talking over the advantages of his device with Wade H. Roby, superintendent of mechanical shops at the Center. It makes it possible to pull sheet piling 12 times as fast as with a chain or a cable, and saves the center about $600 a year. The device is simply slipped around boards, such as the one shown, which have been driven into the ground to shore up ditch banks. Then it is hooked to the cable of a crane. Pull of the crane cable causes the device to grip the board and pull it out of the ground. — (USDA Photo by Forsythe)

Worker At USDA Research Center Is Given Award

BELTSVILLE, Md.—The award of a salary increase of $80 a year has been given to John A. Weems, a laborer at the Beltsville, Md. Research Center of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, for designing a device for pulling sheet piling.

Adoption of the device, which makes it possible to pull up shoring from ditch banks 12 times as fast as with chain or cable, will cut the cost of this work on the 12,000-acre research farm by about $600 a year, says Wade H. Roby, superintendent of mechanical shops.

The square cornered, U shaped device with a loophole attachment on the side for being hooked to a crane cable is simply slipped around the boards which have been driven into the ground to shore up ditch banks. Pull of the crane cable causes the device to grip the board and pull it up.

Mr. Weems lives at Beltsville and has been employed at the Research center since 1951. The within-grade salary increase was awarded by the Efficiency Awards Committee of the Center. Before coming to the Center, he did similar work in pulling sheet piling for the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission for a number of years.

Document Analyst Given $1,000 By VA For Invention

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Richard J. Kuhn, document analyst in the Veterans Administration Investigation Service, has been awarded $1,000 by Veterans Administration Harvey V. Higley, for his invention of an electronic "magic eye" that [illegible] fraudulent documents at a glance.

Mr. Kuhn holds the Incentive Award-winning device on Government time for a total cost of $30—from an electronic tube and odds and ends of parts.

It is expected to save the United States thousands of dollars by enabling VA document analysts to perform their work faster and more accurately.

The new "magic eye" allows laboratory technicians to check quickly papers containing scratch-outs, obliterations, erasures, alterations and the like. By simply placing the suspect paper in the machine and looking through an eye piece, any alteration stands out clearly.

Previously, this sort of detection was expensive and time consuming. A special infra-red photograph had to be taken and considerable time spent determining the area to be photographed and getting proper lighting and exposure. Even then, satisfactory results were not always obtained.

The "magic eye" contains an electronic lens and an infra-red filter. The electronically-beamed infra-red light heightens the slightest differences in ink, pencil or typewriter, making detection easier.

At the present time, the VA Department of Medicine and Surgery is studying Mr. Kuhn's electronic device, to ascertain whether it might be adapted to some forms of medical diagnosis.

Mr. Kuhn said the principle of the infra-red "eye" was used extensively during World War II to help snipers track down the enemy at night. By using invisible light, snipers could see without being seen.

Born in Detroit in 1912, Mr. Kuhn served three years in the Army as a surgical technician during World War II.

After the war, he studied criminology at Fresno College and the University of California, under the GI Bill. He has his A. B. degree and is working toward his master's.

From 1951 to 19533 he was employed by the State of Minnesota as a crime laboratory analyst.

He joined VA in February, 1953, as a document analyst in the Identification and Detection Division of the Investigation Service.

Mr. Kuhn is married and has [illegible] children — four years, two years and one-week old. He lives at 574 Beacon Road, in the Northwest Park Apartments in Silver Spring, Md.

"The award will come in mighty handy meeting the hospital bill for our new baby," Mr. Kuhn said.

$ Billion Claim Made By Inventor

By ARNOLD DEMARLE

NEW YORK — Possible patent infringment notice has been served on 10 large corporations and individuals by an industrial engineer who estimated his loss in possible sales royalties since 1942 at a billion dollars.

Solomon Harper, who claims he invented the first airplane bomb and has pending a million dollar suit against the U. S. Government, is the inventor of a thermostatic control device used in curling irons, combs and 292 other appliances. He invented it in 1936 and the patent number is 2,642,757.

NAMES 10 COMPANIES

Harper charges that the 10 companies and individuals have been using his control device in the manufacturing of various appliances with heating regulating dials on the outside.

The inventor accuses five of the companies and one individual with direct infringment of patent right; the Luster Silk corporation of Chicago, the Electrical Beauty School of Detroit, Rex Metal craft and Tommy Comb co. of Indianapolis and Milwaukee, the Parbo Tool and Die company of New York and a New York attorney, accused of "conspiring and patent-jumping."

The other [illegible] Harper served notice on are General Electric, General Mills, the Hoover company, the National Pressure Cooker company, Fery and Clark and the Sumbeam Electric company.

These companies are not accused of direct patent infringment but possible similarity infringment in the manufacturing of electric hand irons and other appliances equipped with thermostatic control devices.

Harper explained that he invented the first dial thermostatic controlled electric straightening comb in 1928 and received the patent on it in 1928 and the second patent in 1930.

The 1928 patent covered the straightening comb and the other covered the thermostatic control part, Harper said.

While the original patent dealt with a thermostat which controls the heat in a pressing comb, the engineer added, the principle is applied to almost 300 other instruments and appliances, such as flat irons, airplanes, motors, washing machines and pressure cookers.

Harper claimed he invented the first automatic double-chambered aeroplane bomb at the age of 16. His application No. 641513 was filed July 31, 1911.

In January, 1914 Harper applied for patent on a device for automatically stopping and controlling the speed of railroad trains and all other vehicles.

In 1934 the inventor filed an affidavit with the U. S. Government, through the late Sen. Royal S. Copeland, of New York, in which he charged that through carelessness or purposely, government agencies caused him to lose his patent rights on the automatic bomb and several other inventions.

FACES OBSTACLES

Harper claims that while he was in the Army in World War I, from May 1915 to May 1919, roadblocks were put in his way preventing him from renewing his patents. He feels his color was the main obstacle. He is asking a million dollar damages from the government.

While in the Army, Harper is said to have invented the 10-round extension clip for the Springfield Army rifle. In fact, he invented it while in the guardhouse. The invention earned him a scholarship to the University of California in mechanics and electricity in 1917. It was a special course given to army personnel.

In 1928, Harper said, he designed a submarine lifting system which proposed to use built-in cables around the hulls of submerging ships so that they could be lifted out of mud without digging devices. He applied for a patent but did not have sufficient money.

Harper applied for a patent on a non-bi-metal thermostat which was shock resistant. While the electric control part of the invention was never put on the market, the theory of the shock-resistant thermostate became important in World War II in controlled relays on ships and other equipments.

INVENTS BOMB

When Harper invented his airplane bomb, he created a great deal of comment when he said that a plane could sink a battleship. The aeroplane at that time was in an inventive stage of development.

The year before Charles Lindbergh flew the Atlantic in the "Spirit of St. Louis," Harper said he was experimenting on the idea of a guided missile. His plans were seized by two federal officers along with rough plans for an airplane detector system.

Harper said his billion dollar loss claim is based on the total number of devices now using the automatically controlled thermostat which he developed.

Harper, who is a native of Arkansas, lodged his million dollar claim against the U. S. Government in 1950, charging the U. S. Patent Office and the War Department with being jointly responsible for the failure of the government to protect his patent-rights on the bomb and the loss of the train control device.

He was elected associated member of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers in 1924, and in 1927 wes elected a member of the Technology club of Syracuse, N. Y.

21 1955

Inventors Asked To Consult U. S. on Technical Problems

BY HUGH MORRIS

WASHINGTON — (INS) — Inventors were asked to tell the government their ideas on 109 baffling technical problems, including the measuring of odors.

The list was published by the Commerce Department to outline technical aid that scientists, research groups and inventors can offer in the country's defense effort.

All suggestions should be submitted to the National Inventors Council, an agency set up in 1940 as a clearinghouse for new ideas that might be useful in the war effort.

High on the Council's list of problems is the need of a practical means for the quanitative and qualitative analysis of smells.

Odors aboard military aircraft "present very real problems," the Council said and can leave crews incapable of performing their tasks. The deodorizing must not be so efficient that "alarm odors" such as leaking gasoline will be completely eliminated.

Another critical need on the Council's list of problems is the elimination or suppression of take-off noise from jet engines.

The Council said the sound problem at airports near residential areas "becomes increasingly difficult" since the turbo-jet engines create a terrific noise and "the effect upon ground inhabitants is quite severe."

Problems reflecting increased air speed dominate the list.

A three-dimensional device is needed that will give an accurate visual display in time and space of a missile in flight. New methods are required for obtaining technical data from the unmanned missile.

In the way of clothes, the Council wants something similar to a zipper which can be used in garments which are airtight and watertight and pressurized. The closure must be easily and rapidly opened or closed.

Ga. plumber invents sewer filter trap

THOMSON, Ga. (ANP) — A 37-year-old plumber here last week announced that he has an invention that will prevent lethal accumulations of sewerage gas as well as keep down odors from leaking sewer mains.

If the invention of General Gines works out, he'll probably become a rich man. With a U.S. patent and backing from a well known grocer here, Mr. Gaines has already sold the promotion rights to a sales company in Marion, O.

* * *

MR. GAINES, a World War II veteran who studied plumbing while working for the Dozier Plumbing and Electrical Company here, and who completed a course from the International Correspondence School on plumbing, says that his "filter trap" will keep out sewer gas that enters home plumbing systems.

"And whenever such a trap is installed, the house plumbing will be an odorless system and there will not be any danger of blowing up the city main," he asserted.

The threat of sewer gas has haunted engineers for many decades.

21 1955

Invents Mechanical Baseball Umpire

ROCKFORD, Ill. — (INS) — A Rockford, Ill., inventor announced Saturday that he has developed an electrical device which not only pitches and receives balls but even calls strikes when it is used as a catcher.

The inventor, H. A. Atwood, calls his contrivance a "Crazy Cam."

Atwood said that when the machine is employed as a catcher a recorded, "umpire-like" voice calls balls and strikes if the ball passes through the proper zones.

He said his "Cam" will sell for from $875 to $950. Atwood expects to go into production soon at the B-C Metal Products firm, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

21 1956

Oscar Butler, Taxicab Owner, Invents Device To Prevent 'Cheating'

Oscar Butler, an ingenious Kansas City cab owner, has developed and soon will receive a United States patent on a device which gives cab companies a foolproof check on their receipts.

Butler, co-owner of the Crosstown Cab company at 23rd and Prospect, has been in the cab business since 1945 when he returned home after four years of service in the Army. When he received his permit to operate taxicabs, Butler resolved then and there to operate his company on a business-like basis and not to engage in any "shady" or "bootleg" practices that developed during the war.

The World War II veteran learned that cab companies regularly lose income because of the unscrupulous practices of some of their drivers. Butler was careful to explain to THE CALL that he did not intend to imply that all, or even the majority of, cab drivers are dishonest.

"But the few dishonest ones," he said, "make it hard on all of us and give the taxicab business a bad name."

Everybody Protected

In inventing his device to prevent cheating on the part of the cab driver, Butler said that he sought not only to protect the customers and the cab companies, themselves, but also to protect the cab drivers by removing the temptation to pocket some of the fares.

Butler's device makes it impossible for the cab to run with the meter flag up unless there is the weight of a passenger in the back seat. When the back seat is empty, the car stops running and won't start again unless the flag is pulled down.

Butler patented his first wiring system in 1952 but found that there was a flaw in it, so he worked on it again until now he believes he has an errorless, foolproof system.

Takes Care Of "Squirms"

The earlier device made it possible for the cab to stop running even when a passenger was in the back seat. This occurred when the customer squirmed around, possibly to reach in his pocket for money or keys. By bracing himself against the back of the seat and with his feet on the floor board, it was entirely possible for him to take all his weight off the seat, thus closing the switches within the seat and causing the ignition to go off.

All of that has been improved now, Butler said, and even a squirming passenger has been taken care of by allowing a certain amount of time for "squirming" before the ignition is cut off. After all, there is a limit to the time it takes to reach into a pocket for money or keys.

Butler also can adjust his device to allow for passengers who prefer to ride in the front seat with the driver of whom there are many, the cab owner says. Under his system, if a passenger is riding in the front seat and the flag is up, the car will stop.

Extra Trips Out

This device prevents cab drivers from making extra trips with the flag up and not reporting the money to the office. Butler estimates that last year taxicab companies lost $92,000 withheld by cab drivers. He said that in New York, cab companies estimate that they lose from 15 to 30 per cent of fares held out by drivers.

Cab companies which use the Butler wiring system can eliminate this loss. The Butler device has been used for three years on the six cabs which operate from the Crosstown stand at 23rd and Prospect and "have worked out fine," Butler said. The drivers like them. Butler said, and wouldn't drive their cabs any other way.

Omaha Cabs Use It

Three cab companies in Omaha, two operated by Negroes and one by white persons, have been using Butler's system for 15 months and have had "good success." They are the Ritz Cab company, the United company and the Bellview company.

Instead of selling his units, Butler rents them to various cab companies on a 24-hour service basis. Butler has a man in Omaha to service the units and to keep them in running order.

Any time that any unit is out of service for as long as two hours, Butler said, he does not charge any rent for that whole day." The cost of using the deivce, Butler said, is about 40 cents a day for each cab. He said that company savings from getting an accurate accounting of the receipts more than pays for the cost of the unit.

Follows City Ordinance

Butler said that he is operating his cab company strictly in accordance with the city ordinance governing taxicab companies. He said that most cab owners have the same objective, and that violations of the ordinance on the part of some drivers occur without the knowledge of the cab owners.

"For instance," he said, "The city ordinance entitles as many as five persons to ride for the same fare. But many cab drivers charge each person the fare shown on the meter. This is strictly against the law."

Butler advised the riding public to report such violations to the cab companies and also to the city hall.

Butler, a native of Utica, Fla. has lived in Kansas City since 1939. He lives at 2838 Euclid with his wife, the former Valzora Smith and their two children, Karen, 5, and Nancy, 4.

IVENTS FOOLPROOF DEVICE TO CHECK AXI RECEIPTS.—Oscar Butler, local taxicab owner, soon will receive a patent from Washington, D. C., on a wiring system which prevents cab drivers from operating their cars with the meter flag up and putting the fare in their own pocket. Butler is shown here putting the finishing touches on a newly-completed unit which turns off the cab's ignition when a passenger is riding in the car with the flag up. Butler operates the Crosstown Cab company at 23rd and Prospect.

21 1956

Jan E. Matzeliger

He revolutionized shoemaking

Chances are, the shoes you are wearing this very minute were made on a machine. But what you probably didn't know is that the first to convert the lasting process to machine was a colored man—Jan Ernest Matzeliger.

Born in Dutch Guiana, South America of a Dutch father and colored mother, Jan migrated to America, where he finally found work in a shoe factory in Lynn, Mass.

He labored for almost ten years to perfect a machine for lasting shoes. He was offered $1,500 for his invention of pleating the leather around the toe—he refused the offer.

* * *

With Matzeliger's machine, the United States leaped to the front in the shoe producing industry. The prices of shoes were forced down, and earnings in the industry increased more than 350 per cent.

And what about Matzeliger? The amazing young genius was not to enjoy his triumph. Close confinement and overwork had undermined his health. He was stricken with tuberculosia and died two years later, in September 1889, at the age of 37.

What Edison is to lighting, Matzeliger is to footwear. The great man needs no monument. Almost every shoe worn by civilized man is his memorial.

With hundreds of millions of people in civilized lands to be shod, think what it would mean if there had been no such invention as Matzeliger's and the old method of han-lasting was still in vogue.

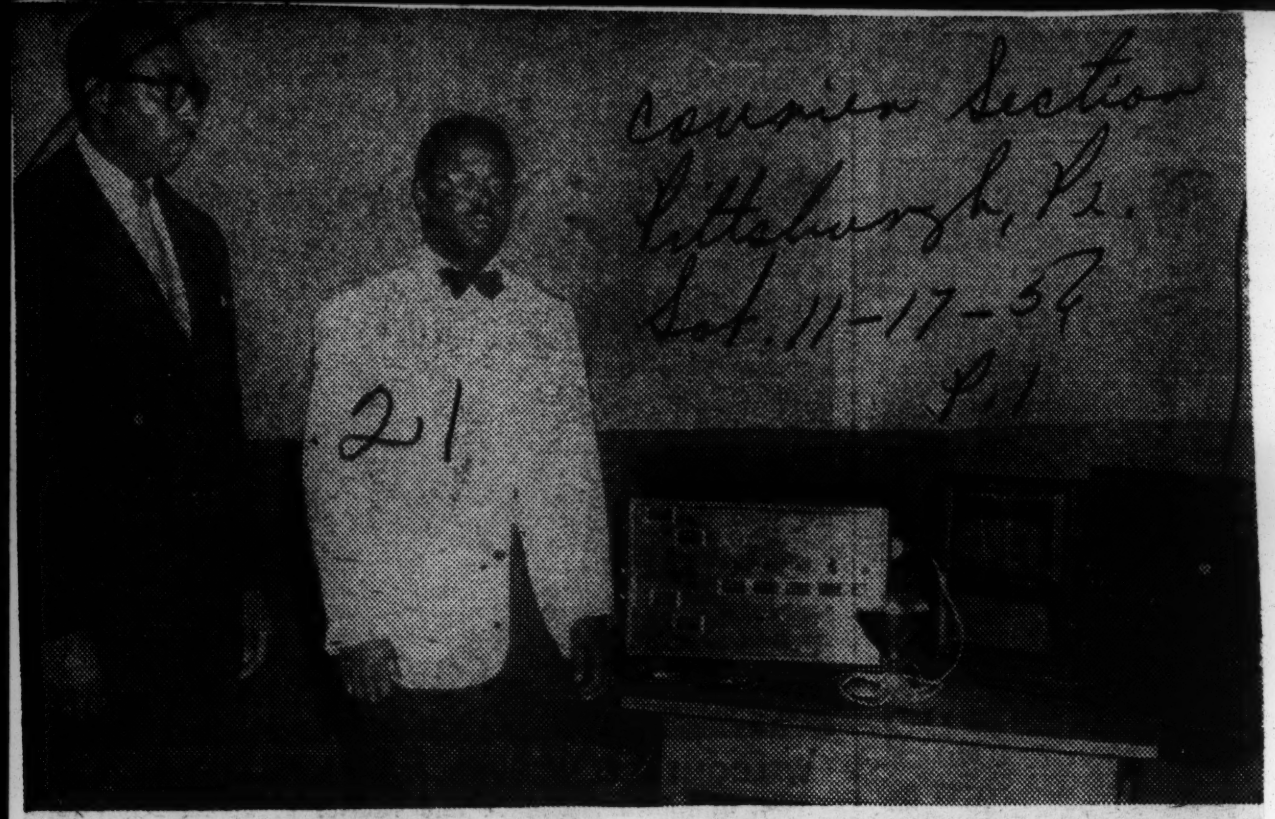
Things You Should Know

LEWIS HOWARD LATIMER

1846-1918

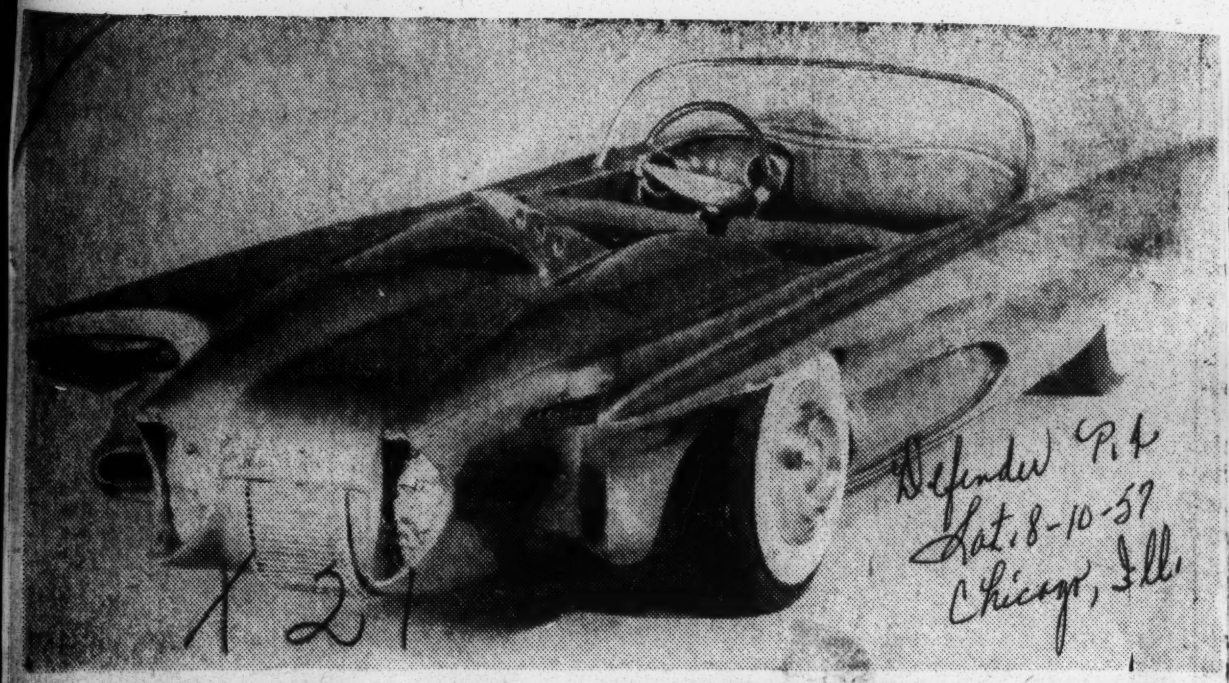
INVENTOR WHO PIONEERED WITH EDISON IN 1878. FOR ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL, HE DREW UP THE PLANS FOR THE FIRST TELEPHONE. HE WAS CHIEF DRAFTSMAN FOR GENERAL ELECTRIC & WESTINGHOUSE! HE INVENTED A CARBON FILAMENT FOR THE MAXIM LIGHT BULB! IN 1881, HE SUPERVISED THE INSTALLING OF THE FIRST ELECTRIC STREET LIGHTS IN CITIES INCLUDING NEW YORK, PHILADELPHIA & LONDON!

CONTINENTAL FEATURES



courier section
Pittsburgh, Pa.
Sat. 11-17-56
Pg 1

INVENTS FIRE AND BURGLAR ALARM—Walter Johnson, 320 Peyton St., Lexington, Va., right, and the Rev. Dogan W. Williams, supervising pastor of the Lexington Larger Parish of the Methodist Church of the same city, left, pose with the new type fire and burglar alarm system which Mr. Johnson invented recently and for which he has applied for a patent. The indicator shows by a light the exact room in which a fire starts and gives alarm, or by a different light the exact window a burglar is entering at the same time a flood light on that window comes on.



THIS IS MODEL CAR which won a $1,000 university scholarship for Alton E. Johnson, Route No. 1, Box 115, Melrose 3, Louisiana. It was one of 19 model cars selected from 2,000 entries in the 1957 Fisher Body Craftsman's Guild model car competition for a top award.

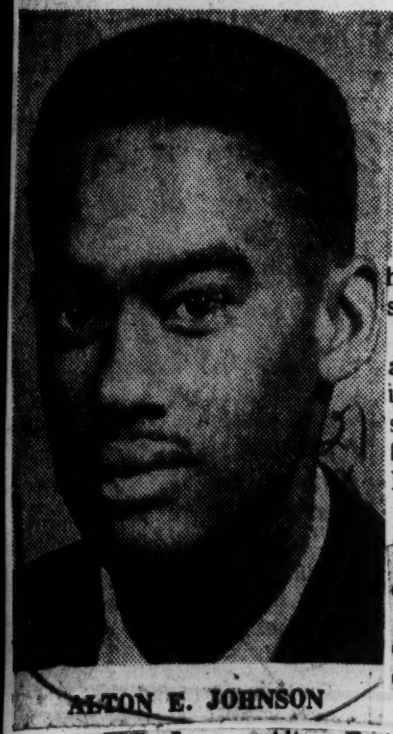
Inventor Finally Patents Radar

Col. William R. Blair of Fair Haven, N. J., who was primarily responsible for developing radar, has finally won a patent on his discovery, the Army announced yesterday.

Blair, a retired Signal Corps scientist, conceived the idea for the vital national defense aid "prior to 1930," the Army said. Because of the secrecy surrounding radar in World War II, Blair's patent application was not filed until 1945. He has had a patent application pending since June of that year, the Army said.

The Government uses radar under a patent-free license but Blair apparently stands to make millions in its application to peaceful purposes.

La. Student, 20, Wins $1,000 For Car Design



ALTON E. JOHNSON

MELROSE, La. — Alton Earl Johnson, 20, won a $1,000 university scholarship in the 1957 Fisher Body Craftsman's Guild model car competition.

A sophomore at Southern university in Baton Rouge, his ambition is to become a mechanical engineer. His father is a farmer living on Route 1, Melrose.

He first entered the model car competition in 1950 and won a second place state award. This is his sixth entry and his perseverance has been rewarded with a design scholarship.

His award - winning model is a six - passenger convertible. It is metallic gray with heavily sculptured lines. It has canted front fenders with in-board headlights and outboard running lights.

Alton began working in wood when he was a small boy and says he designed and built many of his first toys.

James E. Goodman, vice-president of General Motors and president of the Fisher Body Craftsman's Guild presented scholarships valued at $41,000 to 19 youth whose model cars were judged the best from 2,000 models entered in this year's competition.

21 1957

Do You Know Who Invented....

Afro-American Sat. 2-16-57 P.6

Many of the objects you see every day were invented by colored men. Often, they didn't make any money from their inventions, but their names are on the original patents.

Baltimore, Md.

The Toggle Harpoon?

LEWIS TEMPLE invented an improved harpoon, one with a toggle, which revolutionized the whaling industry.

The Golf Tee?

Golfers used a little mound of sand to hold the ball before GEORGE F. GRANT thought up the golf tee.

The Player-Piano?

The player - piano was to the 20's what the record player is to the fifties. It was invented by J. H. DICKINSON.

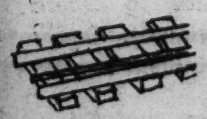
A Corn Harvesting Machine?

In the 1830's HENRY BLAIR of Maryland patented early models of corn harvesters, many of whose features were used for generations.

A Shoemaking Machine?

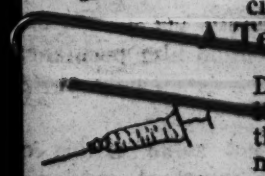
JAN E. MATZELIGER, a cobbler, patented a complex shoelasting machine which enabled shoemakers to bring the price of shoes down so that the average person could afford more than one pair.

A Car-coupling Device?



ANDREW J. BEARD, of Alabama, patented in 1897 the automatic railroad car coupling device. It was used for many years, and some of the principles he discovered are still in use.

A Test for Syphilis?



DR. WILLIAM A. HINTON, authority in bacteriology, for 35 years on the faculty of Harvard, created the most sensitive test for syphilis known —the Hinton test.

39 Species of Plants

DR. CHARLES STEWART PARKER, head of the Botany department at Howard, discovered 39 new species of plants.

In a fascinating new book, "Toward Negro Freedom" by Herbert Aptheker are chronicled historic highlights in the life and struggles of colored people from Colonial days to the present.

The author unearths many forgotten facts, among them, a listing of the many contributions colored people have made to the world of science and invention.

* * *

NORBERT RILLIEUX of New Orleans, in 1846 devised a system of evaporation which forms the basis of the modern sugar refining industry.

William Hunter Dammond of Chicago developed the system of automatic block signals whose principle is still used in the New York subways.

Dr. Charles R. Drew was the father of the blood bank. In 1941, he was appointed director of the American Red Cross Blood Bank. His studies on human blood and its preservation made blood banks possible.

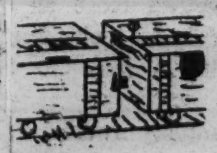
* * *

ELBERT C. ROBINSON of Chicago, invented a very much improved method of casting railroad car wheels, and later developed the overhead trolley device for streetcars.

William G. Haynes developed the liquid used today to preserve railroad ties.

It is impossible to list all the contributions of colored men and women in this article. They are far too numerous, but we can all feel proud of these pioneers in their chosen fields.

The Electric Third Rail?

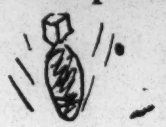


GRANVILLE T. WOODS made advances basic to the development of the "third rail" for electrically driven railroad systems such as the subway trains. He also patented the automatic air-brake.

Sound Movies?

FREDERICK JONES was one of the pioneers in the development of the sound movies we take so much for granted today.

Improvements in Explosives?



DR. LLOYD A. HALL holds some eighty patents. A generation ago he was assistant chief inspector of explosives for the United States Army.

Refrigerated Trucks?

Holder of over 40 patents in the field of refrigeration and chief designer-engineer for one of the largest truck-refrigeration firms in the country is FREDERICK JONES.

Titanium Paint?

WILLIAM G. HOLLY has developed a superior paint, the so-called titanium gloss paint which today is widely used in the commercial painting industry.

Advanced Designs in Rockets?

DR. EDWARD L. HARRIS is one of the leading authorities in rocket and jet fuels and head of the Jet and Rocket Laboratory at Wright Patterson Air Field.

A Special Kind of Salt?

A special salt is used in curing meat. DR. LLOYD A. HALL has developed the most satisfactory salt now in existence which is used throughout the industry.

HE INVENTS THINGS

Ofro Magazine Section

WASHINGTON

Because he invented a revolving picture frame which he hoped to place in mass production, but discovered that there were no machines available to produce the various parts, Frank Critchton turned around and invented five machines to turn out the work.

As a result today he has a small factory in operation at the corner of Fourth and Elm Streets NW, capable of turning out hundreds of items a day and is anxious to train local youth to man and operate the establishment.'

Mr. Critchton is loud in his praise of Dr. Mordecai Johnson, president of Howard University, who he says gave him his greatest encouragement in developing his ideas, and provided space for him to do his researches.

"Many people," says Mr. Critchton," look upon inventors as a weird and strange lot, and give them little help or encouragement while they are conducting their experiments. "Why invent things," they ask, "when there are so many appliances about that could be used and enjoyed like the radio and television and the automobile?"

"They cannot understand" he says" why I work long hours trying to develop new gadgets, but where would civilization be if it were not for the inventors?"

Mr. Critchton is a native of Lynchburg, Va. and has been a resident of Washington for 20 odd-years. It is in honor of his native home that he has named his firm, The Lynchburg-Madison Heights Manufacturing Company. Madison Heights is the section where he spent his boyhood and of which he has many fond memories.

He is a bachelor, but has no pat formula for avoiding the pit falls of love and romance. He studied at Howard University but does not call himself a scientist, but an Applied Scientist following in the footsteps of George Washington Carver, preferring to use its knowledge of physics to the practice of inventing useful objects. Everything he does, he says, calls for the application of some principal of physics.

He has invented five machines all of which perform some district function of the work which he is doing.

"All I want to do," he says" these machines in a short time youth of our race can earn an honest living at constructive and useful work without becoming domestics or menials. I can teach them to operate these machines in a short time and they will be on the road to an indepndent livlihoood."

As a hobby he likes to collect old records, but unlike most moderns he does not go for either modern jazz or swing opera stars. He counts among his prizes a record made by Enrico Caruso in 1903.

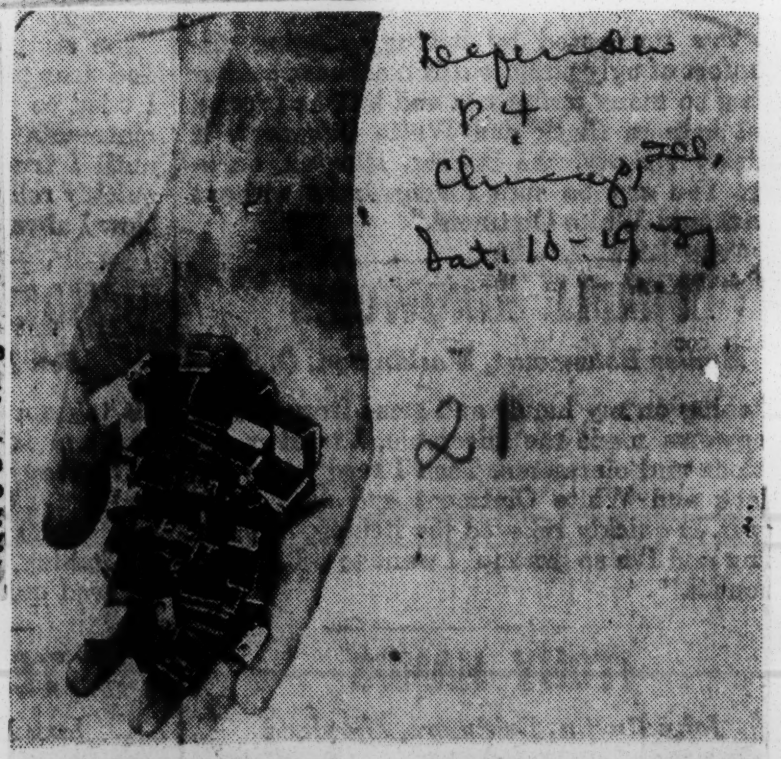
MODERN EDISON — Washington inventor Frank Crichton working on one of his many inventions which he hopes to place in mass production in the near future.

ELECTRONICS EXPERT

Philadelphia - An unexpert in the electronics industry, Billy Montez, a 32-year-old Philadelphian, could well be termed as having "microscopic eyes", for, he has astounded the radio industry by building complete working radio sets barely the size of a sewing thimble.

Montez, who claims that his research and experiments have widened the use of transistors far beyond the limits known to the art of electronics, has already constructed an actual "wristwatch" police radio such as featured in the famed "Dick Tracy" comic strip series.

COURIER
Sat. 6-29-57
p. 4
Pittsburgh, Pa.



A SPECIAL MICROPHONE so small that a hundred can fit into the palm of one hand has been developed. This miniature acoustic device, made by Shure Brothers, Inc., Evanston, Ill., gives high-quality performance and is exceptionally rugged and dependable, the company says, despite the fact that it is only a half-inch square and little more than a quarter-inch thick.

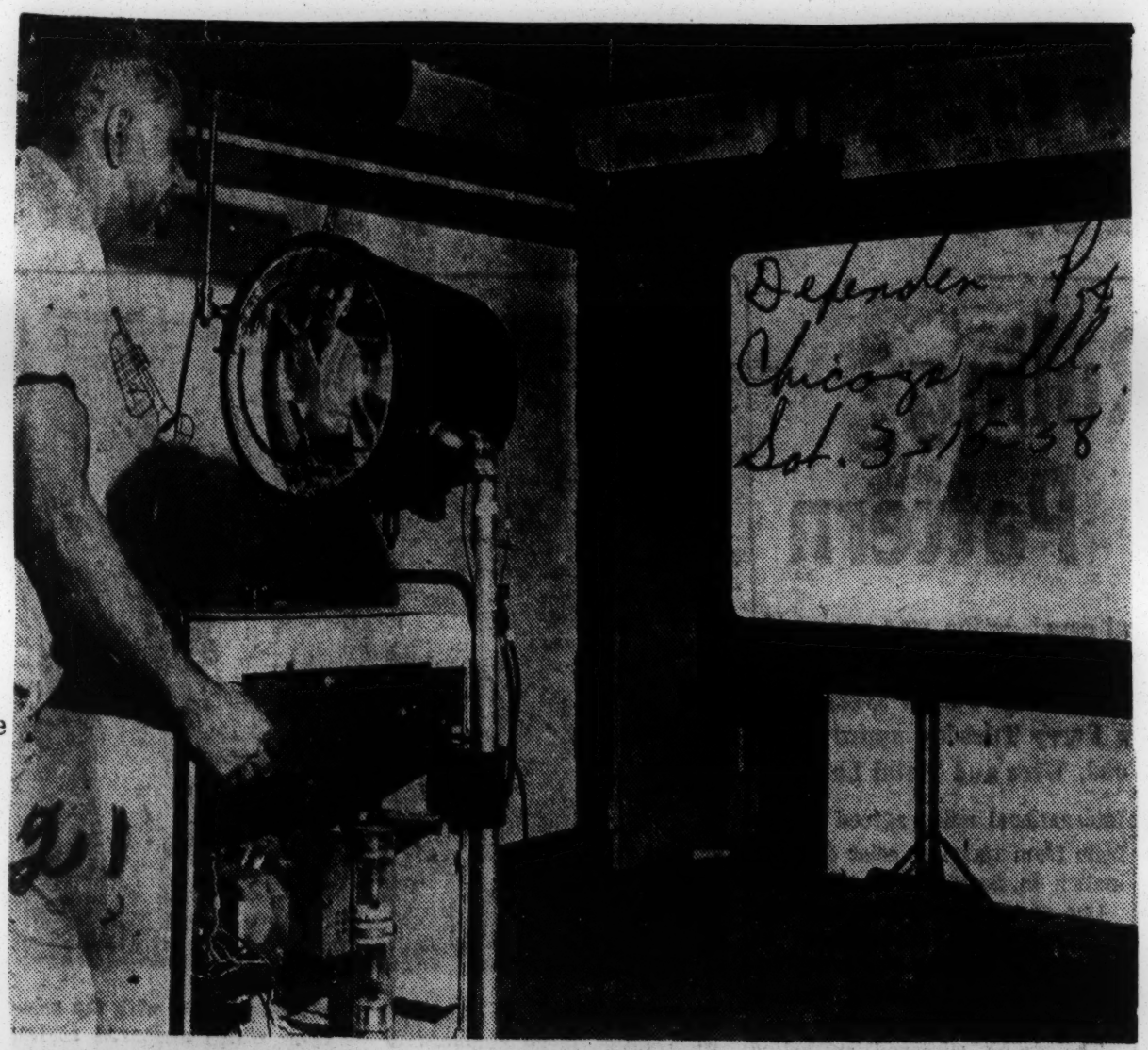
21 1958

THE NEGRO WHO HAD ROCKET
PLANS 30 YEARS AGO.

WASHINGTON SENDS FOR DETROIT
INVENTOR THEY REJECTED
in 1928
by- MARC CRAWFORD

Into Washington,D.C.'s Pentagon
one last week hobbled balding,
54 year-old, Joseph Blair, a
Detroit hotel keeper . . .
was ushered into the office of
the Assistant Secretary of defense
for research and development, then
to Building T, Room 2532.
Blairhad b en summoned to Washington
to give the government some badly
needed information on rocketry,
which they had refused to accept for more
than 30 years ago. For six hours, Blair,
a native of Augusta, Ga., who left
Paine College after two years because
he had no money lectured to high
officials,telling them why the
Vanguard missile failed to put a
satellite into orbit . . . .

J E T pp.22-28
Thurs. March 20, 1958



PORTABLE PROJECTION TV set is demonstrated by its designer, Samuel Procter, Chicago eletronics engineer. Capable of producing clear picture 9 by 12 feet, the set is recommended for use in classrooms, salesmeetings and other demonstrations using either closed circuits or regular TV broadcasts. The most compact and efficient set of its kind yet produced, it is being studied by engineers of several companies which are considering manufacturing it on mass scale. Proctor estimates it would sell for about $2,500.

Boy Inventor Turns Down $50,000

ORANGEBURG, S. C.—An example of what teen-agers can do if they use their time wisely can be seen in Shellie Louis Jr., Wilkinson High School student.

He has invented a "trip meter," which prevents parking motorists from using the time left by pennies or nickels deposited by previous parking motorists.

Already he has turned down a $50,000 offer for his invention.

— Join the NAACP NOW!—

Negro Originated Idea of Reclaiming Iron from Slag

Gary, Ind.,—Two men, one white, one Negro, whose cooperation will add up to the reclamation of unnumbered tons of iron, were awarded $10,000 each by the United States Steel Corporation here today. Oscar M. Dansler and Salvatore Lumella, both employed in the blast furnace division of the Corporations Gary Steel Works, have worked together for more than 15 years.

Furnace Keeper

Mr. Dansler, a furnace keeper, is one of the pillars of the Negro community in Gary. He was born on a farm in Morrell, Ark., in 1897, and was working in sawmills when he began work as a cinder snapper in the blast furnace division.

The father of two children, Mr Dansler is a cornerstone member of the Galilee Baptist church. He teaches Sunday school for young adults, along with his wife who heads that department of the churchs work, and serves as a member of the board of deacons.

Italian Descent

Mr. Lumella is of Italian descent and has literally been reared in the tradition of steelmaking. As was the case with his fellow-winner, he also began his work with the Gary Steel Works in cinders. During the second world war, Mr. Lumella served in the Eureopean theater with the Third Army under the command of General George Patton.

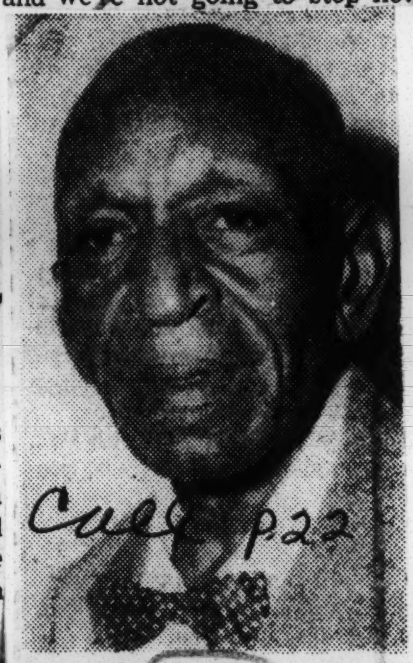
Iniared Idea

The suggestion has to do with drawing off iron from slag which would, ordinarily, be recovered only as scrap. The two men, long-time friends, developed the idea after the thought had come initially to Dansler. Essentially, the idea revolves around the placement of a basin which catches iron before it cools.

Hit Jackpot

The interracial team, neither of whom has had extensive formal training, plans to continue cooperating, since, under the suggestion system of U. S. Steel, it is possible for them, through other accepted ideas, to earn additional awards. In commenting upon their earned distinction the two men said:

"We hit the jackpot on this try and we're not going to stop now."



KANSAS INVENTOR. — Harry O'Dair, Parsons, Kas., originator and inventor of Educational Cut-Outs, was in Kansas City this week. O'Dair, who lives at 1303 Morten in Parsons, has sent copies of his work to President Harry S. Truman, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, General Dwight D. Eisenhower, Bob Hope, Supreme Court Justice Earl Warren and Clyde M. Reed, Jr. He won second prize with his exhibit at the National Hobby Exhibition in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. A friend of the late editor, William Allen White, O'Dair was born in Emporia, Kas., on Dec. 12, 1874. He enlisted twice in the Kansas National Guard at Emporia, serving in 1903 and from 1906 to 1907. His parents were brought to Emporia from Fort Gibson, Indian Territory (now Oklahoma) in 1863 by the Union soldiers.

FARMER TURNS INVENTOR—John Carter (left) farmer of the Milstead community, is pictured above explaining operation of a cross plow invented by him to County Agent J. M. Bolling. Mr. Carter holds a patent on another cross plow which he has built commercially.

21 1959

The Negro In The Field Of Invention

By Gerard N. Lew

It is a common belief even today, that the black in Africa, was a wild untutored savage, who was disciplined to civilized ways, by his white master of the South. Hundreds of books have been written to prove this assertion. I have taken from the shelves of the Congressional Library in Washington, D. C. books with such titles as, "Is the Negro Human?" "The Negro a Beast", both written by a southern white minister named Schufelt. Other books following the same line such as the "Leopard's Spots" by Thomas Dixon, and other books of a kindred stripe by Nelson Paige, and pseudo historian Phillips. These works and kindred publications, seek but to obscure the past, and make the Negro, what he is not.

Contrary to popular belief, the Negro has a background rich in cultural and creative heritage. According to V. F. Calverton, writing in "America Today" quote:-"If the Negro's past was better known, there would be fewer attempts to prove his biological inferiority. "Emil Tonday said, that in the light of the Negro's contribution to ancient culture, quote:- "We are indebted to the Negro for the very keystone of modern civilization, and we owe to him, the discovery of iron."

As late as 1592, all through West Africa, the Negroes had established many centers of learning. In these schools and universities, courses were given in rhetoric, logic, eloquence, diction, arithmetic, hygiene, medicine, prosody, ethnography, music and astronomy. Professors were exchanged with many European schools. Sudanese University of Tankore in Timbuctoo, was equal to the leading European universities of the time. Archeologists busy in Mother Africa, through the recovery of boscure manuscripts, remnants of clothing, and the remains of architectural ruins, and tools, have been able to ressurect the lives and civilization of ancient peoples, for many years buried under the sand.

Here in America, under the domination of the "Big Man," with the whip and gun, the Negro labored for 300 unrequited years. His heritages, his past his manhood were deliberately destroyed, a crime which reeked high to Heaven. Only by the shedding of blood by thousands of men was this crime erased, and he stepped out naked, penniless, homeless into what was called FREEDOM.

As builders of the south, the slaves were expert artisans, mechanics and artificers. It was beneath the dignity of a white man to work with his hands. Hence it fell to the slaves to do much of the creative work which developed and caused the south to blossom.

In 1731, on Nov. 17, there was born in Baltimore county, Maryland, a young Negro, Benjamin Banneker. Born of free parents, he was able to get a 9th grade education in pay schools. At an early age he showed an aptitude for mathematics, and as he grew older became most proficient. On his own initiative he studied legarithms, trigonometry and later took up surveying, a field in which he excelled.

When in 1790, George Washington, selected the site of the present capitol, Banneker was chosen as one of a six man commission, to work with Major L'Enfant to survey and lay out the Capitol. In the course of the work a misunderstanding arose and L'Enfant departed with his plans. Banneker however had studied the plans, and he reproduced them from memory so the work was finished.

Along with all this he had time to publish an Almanac, which found much use and praise, because of its completeness. To Banneker goes the credit for making the first clock in America. Working with the most imperfect of tools, he nevertheless constructed an instrument which not only kept time accurately, but struck the hours as well. Looking at your clock, as it ticks the hours away, remember Benjamin Banneker, a freeman, working in and and giving contributions to AMERICA.

Many inventions were made by slaves. It is claimed but not subject to verification, that slave either invented or gave to Eli Whitney, valuable suggestions for the cotton gin. What a momentous and revolutionary invention this was, can only be visualized by the knowledge that on its work is largely based the cotton spinning industry of the world. It also made slavery, "BIG BUSINESS", only to be done away with after years of bloody conflict.

The first Negro to receive a patent was a Henry Blair, of Maryland, who in 1834 or '36 was issued a patent on a corn harvester. Having been issued apatent, it is logical to conclude that he was a free man, as it was impossible for a slave to secure a patent.

It is a matter of record that in 1859, after the passage of the infamous Dred Scott Decision, the Patent Office refused a Negro of Boston, a patent on the grounds that according to the decision he was not a citizen of the United States and therefore could not have a patent issued to him. What a contrast in this picture to the granting and holding of patents by foreigners, who now have a grip on some of our vital instruments.

In 1861, Chas. Sumner, fighting Abolitionist, fighting to rectify this injustice offered the following resolution in the Senate:-

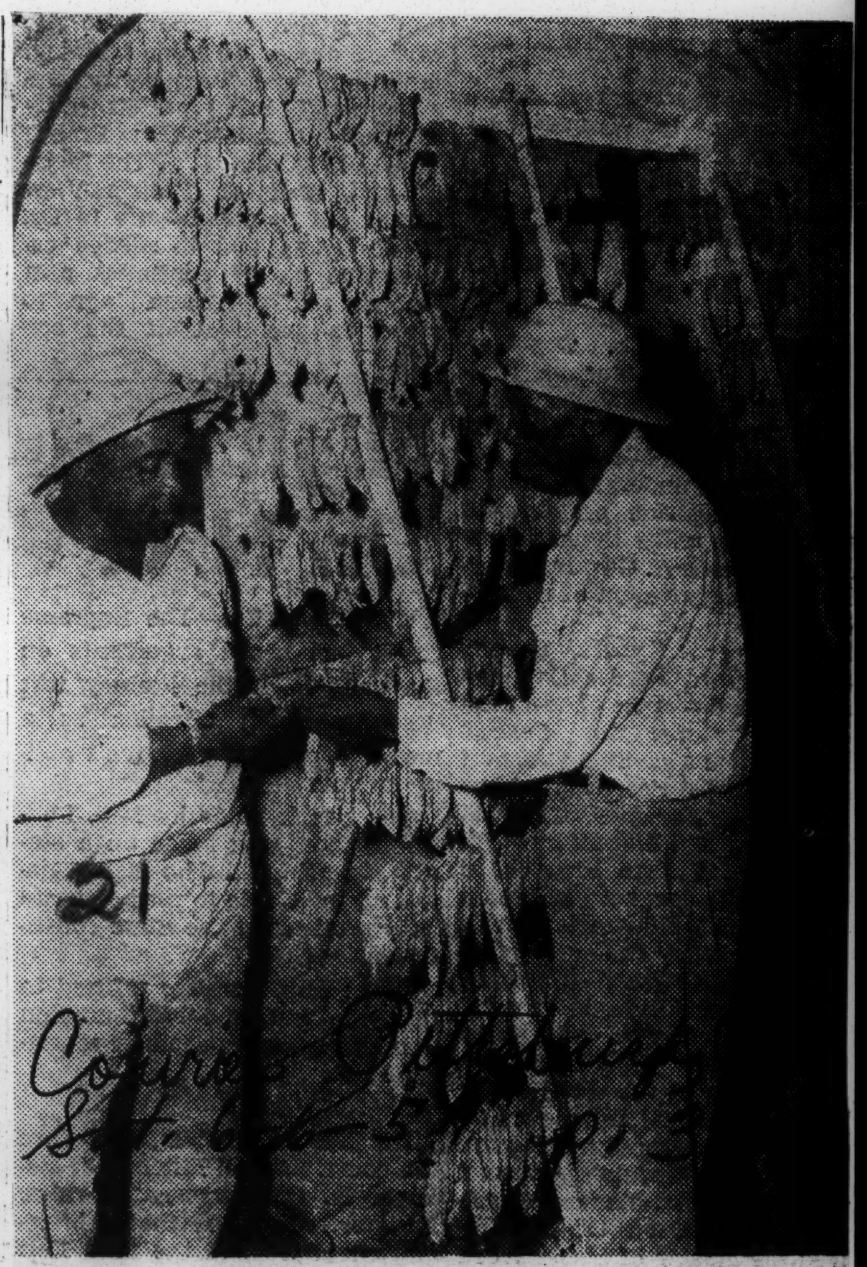
Resolved:-That the committee on Patents and the Patent Office, be directed to consider if any further legislation is necessary in order to secure to persons of African descent, in our country the right to take out patents for useful inventions, under the constitution of the United States.

The Committee made no report. In 1862, the Attorney General in issuing a passport to a free man of color for foreign travel ruled that a free man of color born in the United States was a citizen.

Bejamin T. Montgomery, a slave of Jefferson Davis, was refused a patent on a steam boat propeller. This propeller radical in design was destined to do much in improving the speed and efficiency of river boats. Jeff Davis recognized this, so much so, that when he came into the presidency of the Confederate States, he had the following passed concerning the assignment of interest to Master.

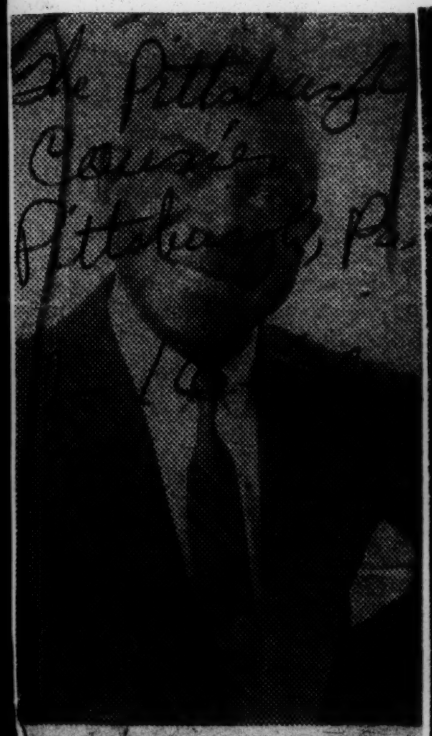
It is interesting to note that B. T. Montgomery was father of Isaiah T. Montgomery, founder of Mond Bayou, Miss. and the Montgomery homestead the former plantation of Jeff Davis.

In the days of sailing vessels when the "Yankee Clipper" ruled the waves, the sea-coast of Maine held first place in building and launching of fleet ships. In 1822, Robt. Benj. Lewis, of Gardiner, me. invented a machine for picking oakum. This material was very important in caulking seams, so as to make a vessel seaworthy. This machine in all its essential particulars is still used by ship building interests in Maine.

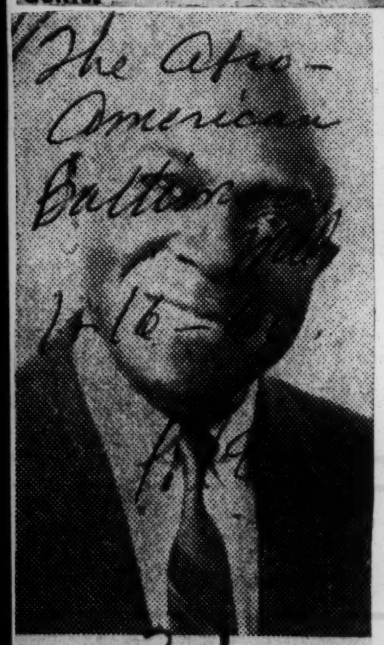


Farmer's Invention—Sonnie Williams, right, 80-year-old farmer of Anderson, S. C., and one of his seven sons, Thomas, are looking at a small rubber square used to hold aromatic tobacco on wire rods during the curing process. Mr. Williams is said to be the first to use pieces of rubber from old inner tubes for this purpose. Last year his five-acre aromatic tobacco crop brought him close to $5,000.—USDA Photo.

21 1960



Inventor—Irving Frederick Barnwell of Baisley Park, N. Y., has received a patent for his invention, a means of controlling air flow from a wall duct. Mr. Barnwell also teaches violin and piano students.



INVENTOR—Irving F. Barnwell of Baisley Park, N.Y., recently received a patent for an invention which improves air conditioning units. The former resident of Charleston, S.C., also gives instructions in violin and piano.

MRS. MELONEZE ROBINSON, RN, demonstrates her invention, an amputation limb support as Dr. Asa Yancey observes.

When surgeons grumbled Nurse Robinson invented

By DOROTHY P. BUTLER

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala. — She hated to hear her favorite surgeon grumble, so Registered Nurse Meloneze Robinson put an end to it. She became an inventor.

"Why," asked Dr. Asa Yancey each time he was to perform an amputation, "doesn't someone devise a simple method to keep the patient's limb immobile during the operation?"

At her then new post at the Tuskegee Veterans Administration Hospital in 1950, Staff Nurse Robinson, herself, had often knitted her brow as the chief surgeon tried to obtain this immobility by use of such awkward operating room objects as dish pans and round basins.

"IF THE PATIENT'S LEG was on a basin," observed Mrs. Robinson, "it could slide, possibly causing the doctor to make an off stroke. With a nurse or assistant holding the leg, the pressure of the doctor's instrument often caused the leg to swag."

Realizing this, the slender Tuskegee Institute nursing graduate had a new work cut out for her. She combed medical journals published during the 1950-53 period in search of an already - marketed instrument that might solve the problem.

"I HAD IN MIND what I was looking for," she says, but confesses with a smile: "As I looked, I half - heartedly hoped I wouldn't find it. You see the idea was growing greater in my mind of devising an instrument myself."

When Mrs. Robinson could find no such support, she breathed a sigh of relief and one night in 1954 sat down at her dining room table with pencil and paper. A couple of hours later, she had completed the rough sketch and dimensions for the first amputation surgery limb support.

Allan G. Junier, VA scientific illustrator, smoothed her rough sketches.

L. W. Driver, chief of manual arts therapy at VA, converted the strokes into the instrument: a stainless steel base with U-shape supports of three varying sizes to fix the limb into position. It also forms a support for the stump to enable the doctor to see comfortably while he sutures skin over the area from which the limb was removed.

* * *

DR. YANCEY, appropriately the first to use the newly-completed gadget, said after its December 20, 1954 "debut": "It serves better than any assistant, because assistants are human and cannot keep perfectly still. I think you have a useful safety device and I hope you'll take steps to patent it." (He is now chief of surgery at Hugh Spalding Pavilion of Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta.)

But Mrs. Robinson was still unsure of the instrument's value, and spent the next two years convincing herself it was worth patenting. But once the decision was made, she was set to see it through.

* * *

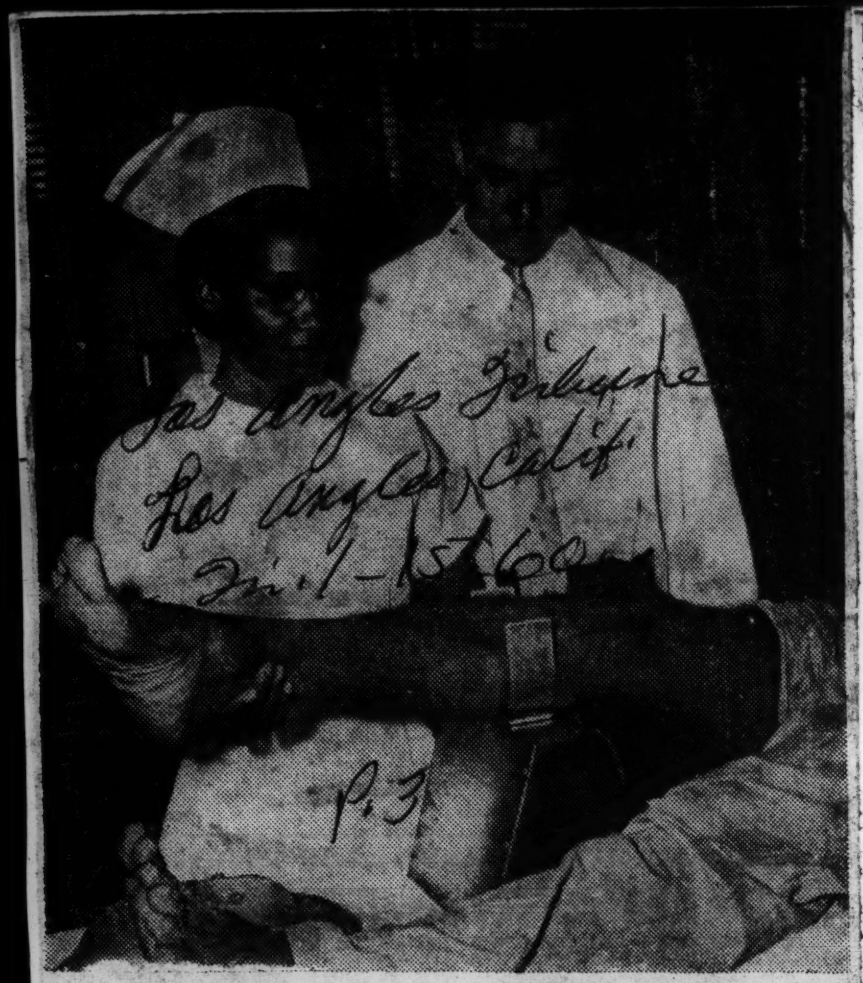
TWO YEARS, $800 and "tons of anxiety" later, Mrs. Robinson received the patent. She recalled: "Sometimes a period of six or seven months passed and I heard nothing from Washington. I was just determined that no instrument on the market resembled mine. I was so sure I used my personal savings for the patent process and lawyer's fees."

But the good news came in unexpected form, late in 1958. "I received this letter from an invention sales company congratulating me," she remembered. "This preceded official word from Washington. My lawyer contacted me shortly after."

* * *

THE RESULTANT elation was captured in the reaction of her only son, Demetrius (now 13): "Mother, he asked, "do you realize your name is in Washington? I think you're great." She smiled: "I guess that was worth all the effort."

At any rate, it's been used over 40 times at VA by present chief surgeon, Dr. John Hume, and others. And Mrs. Robinson exceeded her original aim with an invention which may possibly quiet the grumblings of many physicians across the country.



TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala. — Because she hated to hear her favorite surgeon grumble, Registered Nurse Meloneze Robinson, above, became an inventor.

"Why," asked Dr. Asa Yancey, also shown, each time he was to perform an amputation, "doesn't someone devise a simple method to keep the patient's limb immobile during the operation?"

At her post at the Tuskegee Veterans Administration hospital, Staff Nurse Robinson devised the first amputation surgery limb support, shown above.

Dr. Yancey was the first to use the gadget after it was patented after two years work, $800 and tons of anxiety.

It has been used over 40 times at Tuskegee by surgeons and may possibly quiet the grumblings of many physicians across the country when it is marketed this year.

Auburn Prof Invents Logic Machine

AUBURN, April 27—Dr. John Henry Melzer, professor of philosophy at Auburn University, has copyrighted what he calls, "the first graphic advance in logic in nearly 100 years."

Named the Melzer Validascope, the device provides an absolute check on the validity of all possible inferences from any argument.

The Validascope is quite simple in appearance, and Dr. Melzer says it is "the world's smallest and simplest Univac." It is about two inches by five inches in size and has four moving wheels on each side.

A manual is provided with the Validascope which shows how to reduce any argument to one or two premises and a conclusion. Once the argument is reduced, it can be "programmed" on the Validascope and the validity of the conclusion determined, as well as the validity of all other possible conclusions from the given premises.

Operation of the Validascope is quite simple. After the argument has been reduced to its basic premises, an easy mechanical operation immediately shows all possible valid conclusions.

21 1961

It Is "Seen" and "Heard"

Virginian Invents System To Sound Alarm In Fires

Journal + Guide D. 11
Norfolk, Va. Sat. 2-11-61

LEXINGTON, Va. — A serious fire does not stand a ghost of a chance in the home of Walter Johnson Jr. a janitor at the Lylburg Downing school here.

The reason: Mr. Johnson has perfected his own fire alarm system.

PERFECTING A machine to warn him if a fire is underway anywhere about his home (or any place where the device is utilized) was an 11-year effort for Mr. Johnson.

Appealled at the senseless loss of life and property he had seen in tragic fires at Philadelphia, Mr. Johnson set out to solve the problem.

INSPIRATION for the effort which ended in the construction of his "See and Hear Fire Alarm System" came to Mr. Johnson in the form of a dream. He says that he was awakened one night while dreaming of a particularly tragic blaze, awoke and put a design down on paper for a machine he had seen in his dream, then went back to sleep.

Eleven years later, Mr. Johnson came up with a device which consists of a panel board connected with thermostats in each room of a house.

TEMPERATURE of 130 degrees will activate the thermostat in any room, an alarm will sound and a light on the panel will show which room is threatened by fire.

Mr. Johnson, who lives at 230 Peyton street, Lexington, is now trying to make his alarms so that they can be purchased at a price any homeowner can afford.

THOUGH HIS "See and Hear" alarm represents a great advance over other fire alarm systems, Mr. Johnson does not minimize the importance of insurance.

But he notes that insurance cannot bring back someone who has died in a fire. The speed with which his system works allows persons within a building to quickly recognize the locale of a fire threat and move rapidly to counter it, he said.

DR. J. B. MASSEY

Newark physician invents sun visor

The Afro-American
Baltimore Md.

NEWARK

A Newark physician, Dr. J. Bruce Massey of 665 High St., recently received United States and French patents for a new invention, an Extension Sun - visor.

Sat. 2-11-61

Dr. Massey said when used in automobiles, trucks and aircraft the device blocks out blinding sun rays above the rear - view mirror of the vehicles without affecting visibility in the rear-view mirror.

The physician stated that automobile manufacturers in Detroit were enthusiastic over the device. He said he has completed plans to have the Extension Sun Visor manufactured in factories in France and Germany.

* * *

DR. MASSEY feels that his invention will "potentially prevent many accidents and thereby save many lives."

He was cited for the 1956 invention of five gynecological surgical instruments.

Dr. Massey is a graduate of Howard University and the Howard University Medical School.

Alabama inventor may get $1 million

Birmingham News D. 49
Wed. 8-9-61

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8—(AP)—Congress has been asked to award $1 million to a retired Alabama architect who patented a radio-controlled aerial torpedo in 1922.

A bill by Rep. George W. Andrews, (D., Ala.) said the invention established remote control and gyroscopic stabilization principals used in a wide variety of military and industrial devices, and was "instrumental in the successful prosecution of World War II."

Birmingham Ala

The inventor, Garnett J. Dye, a Dothan, Ala., and Atlanta, Ga., architect who now lives in Shreveport, La., never was able to cash in on his own device because it was developed and applied in military secrecy, Andrews said.

He said Dye made "several discreet inquiries of the government regarding his invention" while the patent was in force, and these resulted in "superficial checks of only one application of the invention—that of the aerial torpedo—without regard to the far more important aspects of guidance and leveling systems."

THUS, THE BILL SAID, the replies to Dye were not only inaccurate but they prevented him from bringing legal action against the government and manufacturers of bombsights, automatic piloting systems and devices using gyroscope leveling. It added:

"In short, the secrecy with which the government handled the development of the invention prevented Mr. Dye from attaining any benefit from one of the great inventions of our time."

It said Dye's invention has been the basis for several multi-million dollar enterprises.

Lt. Col. Harold A. Dye, an Army officer stationed in Washington, told a reporter his father offered the invention to the government in 1918.

UNDATED

Weston

Base-Rite Bond

COTTON FIBRE CONTENT

N Inventions

NEGRO INVENTORS.

(From the Cleveland Plain Dealer.)

The Patent Office does not record the race of patentees, but according to Henry E. Baker, in an article in The Journal of Negro History, it is estimated that more than 3,000 patents are held by members of the Negro race.

The most prolific of Negro inventors was Elijah McCoy, of Detroit, who from 1872 to 1920 obtained 57 patents. "His inventions cover a wide range of subjects," says the Negro Year Book, "but relate particularly to the lubricating of machinery. He was a pioneer in the art of steadily supplying oil to machinery in intermittent drops from a cup, so as to avoid the necessity of stopping the machine to oil it."

The first American Negro to receive a patent on an invention, the Year Book asserts, was Henry Blair, of Maryland, who in 1834 and 1836 was granted patents on a corn harvester. It has been claimed but not verified that a slave either invented the cotton gin or gave to Eli Whitney, who obtained the patent for it, valuable suggestions to aid in the completion of that invention.

Among the most important inventions by a Negro was the machinery for automatically attaching soles to shoes. The original contrivance of this sort was devised by John Ernest Matzeliger, who was born in Dutch Guiana in 1852, but who came to the United States and lived Lynn, Mass. His invention revolutionized shoe production methods, greatly reduced the cost of making shoes, and is said to have laid the foundation for establishment of the United Shoe Machinery Company, the largest organization of its kind in the world.

Granville T. and Lyates Woods of New York, were the patentees of some 50 articles. Most of these have to do with telegraph and telephone instruments, electric railway and electric power control. Among their devices are several relating to the transmission of telegraph messages to moving trains.

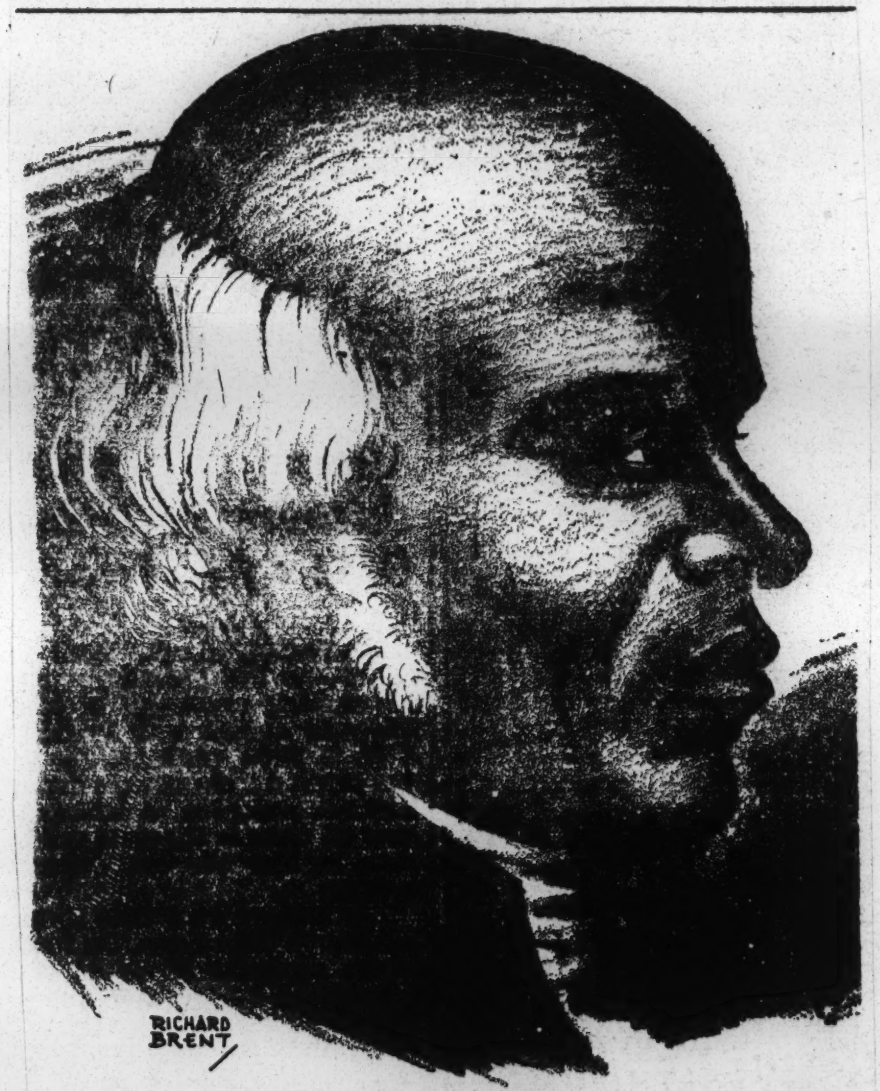
Shelby J. Davidson and Robert Pelham, both of them civil service employes in Washington, are the inventors of office machines now in extensive use by the Government for the tabulation of statistics. George W. Murray, of South Carolina

GUIDING LIGHTS

ROBERT A. PELHAM

Robert A. Pelham, statistician employed in the United States Census Bureau, has invented and patented a machine used in tabulating statistics that can do the work of 12 men . . . This almost human device is both speedy and economical . . . A number of these machines have been leased by the United States government, which pays Mr. Pelham a royalty for their use and also a salary for operating them.

Guiding Lights



JAMES VARICK

James Varick was one of the distinguished leaders who played an important part in drawing up the doctrines and principles of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church when it was finally organized in 1821 into a national body . . . In 1822 James Varick, because of his remarkable intellect and wisdom, was chosen as its first Bishop.

IV Inventions
Pelham. Machines

GUIDING LIGHTS

N.Y. Amsterdam News - 1-14-39

The gentleman pictured above is the distinguished Jan E. Matzeliger, inventor of the lasting machine, which has completely revolutionized the shoe industry . . . A native of Dutch Guiana, he came to America in his early youth and served as an apprentice at the cobbler's trade in Philadelphia, Pa., and in Lynn, Mass. . . . His belief, that production could be greatly increased if the trade was relieved from drudgery, resulted in his inventing a lasting machine that adjusted the shoe, arranged the leather over the sole, and drove in the nails . . . This device was patented March 20, 1883 under No. 274,207, just six years before his death in 1889 at the age of 37.

Since the inception of this labor-saving device the salaries of workers have increased, the working hours decreased, and the cost of shoes cut in half.

Invention

THE NEGRO IN THE FIELD OF INVENTION

The various branches of technical and scientific industry in our country had to go through a long period of development to reach the level now gained. Many nationalities have contributed much to the wealth that has been accumulated by means of machinery. The Negro, in no measure falling short in the field of invention, has contributed his share of creative accomplishments. But owing to tradition and circumstance, many of the Negro's inventions have been lost to his credit. Traditional attitude handed down from generation to generation by the other race fails to recognize the achievements accomplished by men of color. Therefore the general public fails to believe that the Negro has done anything worth while in the field of invention. Such a state of mind on the part of the public is not perceptibly changed by the well authenticated reports now and then of meritorious inventions.

Dating back before the period of the Civil War, the Negro made many inventions for which he received no credit. Because the Negro was considered a slave and not a citizen of the United States, his name could not be placed upon the statute book in the United States Patent Office, and his white master received credit for the profits of such inventions. Later a bill was passed through the efforts of several men who believed in justice and who would not tolerate such unfairness on the part of government officials. Nevertheless before the bill was passed permitting the registration of Negro inventions upon the statute books in the United States Patent Office, many Negroes were recorded as creators of several patents. Henry Blair designed in the official records as a colored man was granted two patents on the corn harvester, one in 1834, the other in 1836. In the light of this single exception, the fact is that many more inventions before the Civil War were created by Negroes.

The legal ban on patents sent in by slaves did not affect the free men of color residing in the northern states. So that when James Forten, of Philadelphia perfected a new device for handling sails, he had no difficulty in obtaining royalty on his inventions that gave him financial support until the end of his life.

Norbert Rillieux, a colored Creole of Lousianan, was responsible for the revolutionizing of the sugar refining industry by creating the vacuum pan.

Since the Civil War, many more Negroes have stepped towards the front to take their places among the creative geniuses. One of these men Jan E. Matzeliger, Dutch West Indian, invented a machine for lasting shoes. This appliance was the first of its kind designed to hold a shoe on its last, grip and pull the leather down around the heel, guide and drive the nails into place and discharge a completed shoe. No modern shoe factory is now without it.

Another prosperous business growing out of the inventions of a colored man is the Riply Foundry and Machine Company of Riply, Ohio, established by John Parker. His patent was a screw for tobacco presses granted in 1884 and 1885. The factory founded by him has passed from the ownership of the Parker family.

Elijah McCoy the inventor of the automatic lubricators for machinery is regarded as the pioneer inventor in that line; 1872 marked the first of his patents and since then many companies operating machinery have profited from his scientific discoveries.

Granville T. Woods appears to have surpassed all other colored inventors in the number and variety of his inventions. The first ones related to electricity, incubators, automatic airbrakes, amusement apparatus, telegraphy. He has to his credit other inventions too numerous to mention, all of which are recorded in the Patent Office of the United States.

Another instance was a cotton picking machine covered by two patents, granted to A. P. Albert, a native Louisiana Creole.

Inventions in the line of appliances for musical instruments, created by Mr. J. H. Dickinson and son are worthy of note. Their devices are connected with the player piano and its mechanism.

A survey of Negro inventors would be incomplete if no mention were made of Benjamin Banneker a native of Baltimore County, Maryland. Benjamin Banneker towers above all scientists of his time with the possible exception of Benjamin Franklin. His pursuits were in the field of advanced mathematics and astronomy, therefore he became the author of many valuable papers.

The invention of the first alarm clock of America in the year 1770 was the productive work of his master mind, yet Benjamin Banneker spent most of his life in the field of astronomy. From these interests developed his almanac financed by Goddard and Angell of Baltimore.

These men and many more, are entitled to a place in the great galaxy of men who are not only an asset to the civilization of their time, but whose works are the foundation of modern civilization.

—P. Simms, '27.

1 Journal of Negro History—Caster G. Woodson.
International Encyclopedia
Encyclopedia Britannica.

NEGRO INVENTORS

(From Cleveland Plain Dealer.)

The Patent Office does not record the race of pantees, but, according to Henry E. Baker in an article in the Journal of Negro History, it is estimated that more than 3,000 patents are held by members of the Negro race.

The most prolific of Negro inventors was Elijah McCoy of Detroit, who from 1872 to 1920 obtained 57 patents. "His inventions cover a wide range of subjects," says the Negro Year Book, "but relate particularly to the lubricating of machinery. He was a pioneer in the art of steadily supplying oil to machinery in intermittent drops from a cup, so as to avoid necessity of stopping the machine to oil it."

The first American Negro to receive a patent on an invention, the Year Book asserts, was Henry Blair of Maryland, who in 1834 and 1836 was granted patents on a corn harvester. It has been claimed but not verified that a slave either invented the cotton gin or gave to Eli Whitney, who obtained the patent for it, valuable suggestions to aid in the completion of that invention.

Among the most important inventions by a Negro was the machinery for automatically attaching soles to shoes. The original contrivance of this sort was devised by John Ernest Matzeliger, who was born in Dutch Guiana in 1852 but who came to the United States and lived in Lynn, Mass. His invention revolutionized shoe production methods, greatly reduced the cost of making shoes and is said to have laid the foundation for the establishment of the United States Shoe Machinery Company, the largest organization of its kind in the world.

Granville T. and Lyates Woods of New York were the patentees of some 50 articles. Most of these have to do with telegraph and telephone instruments, electric railway and electric power control. Among their devices are several relating to the transmission of telegraph messages to moving trains.

Shelby J. Davidson and Robert Pelham, both of them civil service employes in Washington, are the inventors of office machines now in extensive use by the government for the tabulation of statistics. George W. Mudray of South Carolina, once a member of Congress, patented eight inventions on agricultural implements. Frank J. Ferrell, of New York, has obtained patents on a dozen or more improvements in steam engines. Joseph H. Dickson, New Jersey, has been responsible for a number of inventions in player piano mechanism, most of them now in general use by piano manufacturers. William B. Purvis, Philadelphia, is one of the principal inventors of machinery for making paper bags.

Harlem Negro's Invention Demonstrated to Public

In the presence of a crowded house, Benjamin F. Thomas, the Negro inventor of a flame-proofing process, under the auspices of the Flame-Proofing Steam Laundry, gave a demonstration of his invention last Wednesday evening at 9 o'clock, at the headquarters of the Urban League, 204 West 136th street, in Harlem.

Mr. Thomas, who is a successful business man of Harlem for the last thirty years, has been experimenting with chemical elements for a number of years. He had discovered new types of soaps, scouring powders, roach powders and such other things that can be industrially exploited. But this flame-proofing process is the first invention of his that has been brought before the public.

In an interview, Mr. Thomas explained that his former processes could not be put over the market, because the Negro business men were not interested in promoting such things as they are today. He gave credit for the present change of attitude among the Negroes to Marcus Garvey and his philosophy.

After explaining his new invention, Mr. Thomas proceeded to demonstrate whether his process can do everything he claimed for it. He took pieces of silk, cotton and rayon cloth, paper, excelsior and wool, all treated with his process and held them under flames. The only thing that could happen to these highly inflammable materials was that they charred but would not flame. The moment he took away the flame, the fire was immediately choked. Mr. Thomas even poured some gasoline on these treated pieces and set them afire. The gasoline burned and most of the cloth remained unburnt.

In contrast to this Mr. Thomas also took pieces of the same materials but untreated and held them under flames, and they flamed to ashes immediately.

The idea behind this demonstration was to show that this invention could be exploited commercially, for which purpose the Flame-Proofing Steam Laundry Co., Inc., has been formed, under the laws of the State of New York, with a capital stock of $25,000 with shares of $5 par each. The company will carry on regular laundry business in addition to treating it with the flame-proofing process.

Mr. T. Cambridge of the United Wet Wash Laundry, spoke on the practical side of the laundry business. He emphasized that the laundry business was always a paying business. If business is properly handled there is plenty of money to be made. He pleaded with his audience to go into business by investing as much savings as they can in enterprises like the Flame-Proofing Steam Laundry Co., Inc.

Attorney Grigg told his hearers that the Negro must create his own jobs from now on. It is better, said he, to own our business and employ our own men and women than to go to work for others and be their slaves. He then dwelt on the advantages of corporation business. Mr. Grigg is the attorney for the company.

Clifford T. Butte, director of Industrial Fund, 2143 Seventh avenue, said that a company like the Flame-Proofing Steam Laundry Co., Inc., could expand if it is properly backed by the Negroes and employ thousands of Negroes. He appealed to all present to buy an interest whether small or big, in this enterprise.

Nearly a hundred shares were subscribed for from among the audience.

H. G. Mudgal, editor of The Negro World, presided.

TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT··· by Homer Smith
THE MACHINE FOR ATTACHING SOLES TO SHOES, WHICH LAID THE BASIS FOR THE FOUNDING OF THE GREAT UNITED STATES SHOE MACHINERY COMPANY, WAS INVENTED BY A NEGRO COBBLER OF LYNN, MASS.
-JAN. E. MATZELIGER

NEGRO INVENTORS

(From Cleveland Plain Dealer.)

The Patent Office does not record the race of pantees, but, according to Henry E. Baker in an article in the Journal of Negro History, it is estimated that more than 3,000 patents are held by members of the Negro race.

The most prolific of Negro inventors was Elijah McCoy of Detroit, who from 1872 to 1920 obtained 57 patents. "His inventions cover a wide range of subjects," says the Negro Year Book, "but relate particularly to the lubricating of machinery. He was a pioneer in the art of steadily supplying oil to machinery in intermittent drops from a cup, so as to avoid necessity of stopping the machine to oil it."

The first American Negro to receive a patent on an invention, the Year Book asserts, was Henry Blair of Maryland, who in 1834 and 1836 was granted patents on a corn harvester. It has been claimed but not verified that a slave either invented the cotton gin or gave to Eli Whitney, who obtained the patent for it, valuable suggestions to aid in the completion of that invention.

Among the most important inventions by a Negro was the machinery for automatically attaching soles to shoes. The original contrivance of this sort was devised by John Ernest Matzeliger, who was born in Dutch Guiana in 1852 but who came to the United States and lived in Lynn, Mass. His invention revolutionized shoe production methods, greatly reduced the cost of making shoes and is said to have laid the foundation for the establishment of the United States Shoe Machinery Company, the largest organization of its kind in the world.

Granville T. and Lyates Woods of New York were the patentees of some 50 articles. Most of these have to do with telegraph and telephone instruments, electric railway and electric power control. Among their devices are several relating to the transmission of telegraph messages to moving trains.

Shelby J. Davidson and Robert Pelham, both of them civil service employes in Washington, are the inventors of office machines now in extensive use by the government for the tabulation of statistics. George W. Mudray of South Carolina, once a member of Congress, patented eight inventions on agricultural implements. Frank J. Ferrell, of New York, has obtained patents on a dozen or more improvements in steam engines. Joseph H. Dickson, New Jersey, has been responsible for a number of inventions in player piano mechanism, most of them now in general use by piano manufacturers. William B. Purvis, Philadelphia, is one of the principal inventors of machinery for making paper bags.

A NEGRO INVENTOR

Dawn of Tomorrow 6-30-33

McCoy, Elijah (Mar. 27, 1843—Oct. 10, 1929), Negro inventor was born in Canada, the son of George and Mildred (Gains) McCoy, both natives of Kentucky. He seems to have engaged in mechanical work at an early age and soon developed inventive talent, which he applied almost exclusively to the field of automatic lubrication of machinery. About 1870, at which time he was a resident of Ypsilanti, Mich., he began experimenting with lubricators for steam engines, and after two years of labor, June 23, 1872, he received patent No. 129,843. Probably he had an experimental machine-shop of his own, and as each of his ideas was perfected he made a partial or total assignment of his rights to the invention, thereby obtaining sufficient money to continue with his work. Thus his first patent was assigned outright to William and S. C. Hamlin of Ypsilanti. Between 1872 and 1876 McCoy obtained six patents for lubricators and one for an ironing toble, the latter on May 12, 1874. For a period of six years thereafter his inventive work apparantly ceased. Meanwhile, he moved to Detroit, and here from 1882 to 1926 he continued his activities. During this period fourty-four patents were granted him, all but eight of which pertained to ubricating devices.

McCoy is regarded as the pioneer in devising means for steadily supplying oil to machinery in intermittent drops from a cup, thus obviating the necessity of stopping a machine to oil it. His lubricating cup was in use for years on stationary engines and locomotives of the great railways of the West, on the engines of steamships on the Great Lakes, on trans-Atlantic liners, and on the machinery ofk many factories.. Other patents which he secured included those for the following devices: steam dome for locomotives, June 16, 1885; scaffold support, June4, 1907; valve and plug-cock, June 30, 1914; vehicle wheel tire, Oct. 2, 1923; and a rubber heel, Nov. 10, 1925. About 1920 he organized the Elijah McCoy Manufacturing Company in Detroit and assigned to his company an improved airbrake lubricator, which he patented that year. Some time after 1926 his health began to fail. He was apparently alone in the world, his wife having died, and in 1928 he was committed to the Eloise Inirmary, Eloise, Mich., where he died about a year later. He was buried in Detroit.

July 22 1933

Offered Fifty Thousand Dollars For Invention

Charleston Gazette

Alexander, La.—Samuel J. Hines, a brickmason was granted a patent for an invention which will cut the grass on the edge of a lawn. He was offered $50,000 outright, and ten cents on each attachment sold. Mr. Hines is considering the offer.

The cutting of the edge of his lawn had worried him for years as it was extra work for him to go over this with shears after the lawn was cut.

The necessity for reducing energy expended on his lawn, resulted in his invention of an appliance which may be attached to a lawn mower in such a way that the lawn, edges and all, can be sheared up in one operation.

He states that he has had offers from brokers in various sections of the country to exploit his device commercially.

George W. Murray, a Negro, who at one time was a Congressman from South Carolina, had eight patents to his credit from his inventions of agricultural impliments?

Newport News Star
Sept 20 '34

Colorado Statesman July 8, 1933

HAS $50,000 OFFER FOR LAWN-CUTTING INVENTION

Alexandria, La.—Samuel J. Hines, local brickmason, has been offered $50,000 for his invention of an appliance which may be attached to a lawn mower so that the edges may be cut along with the lawn.

Mr. Hines, who always pays attention to little things, had for years been worried by the extra work required to cut the grass of the edge of his lawn where the regular mower would not reach. After he was through cutting the lawn, he had to take shears and go over the edges.

The necessity for reducing energy expended on his lawn resulted in his invention by means of which the lawn, edges and all, can be cut in one operation.

Mr. Hines made an application for a patent for his invention March 25, 1932, and the patent was granted May 30, 1933, which is fast work in the patent department. He states that he has had offers from brokers in various sections of the country to exploit his device commercially, but has accepted none.

The best offer came from a firm which proposed to give him $50,000 outright, and ten cents on each attachment sold.

OFFERED $50,000 FOR INVENTION WHICH CUTS GRASS

Ans-American 7/1/33

ALEXANDRIA, La. — (ANP) — Samuel J. Hines, local brickmason, pays attention to little things. One of the details which worried him for years was the extra work required to cut the grass on the edge of his lawn where the regular mower would not reach. After he was through cutting the lawn, he had to take shears and go all over the edges.

The necessity for reducing energy expended on his lawn, resulted in his invention of an appliance which may be attached to a lawn mower in such a way, that the lawn, edges and all, can be sheared up in one operation.

Mr. Hines made an application for a patent for his invention March 25, 1932, and the patent was granted May 30, 1933, which is fast work in the patent department. He states that he has had offers from brokers in various sections of the country to exploit his device commerically. but has accepted none. The best offer came from a firm which proposed to give him $50,000 outright, and ten cents on each attachment sold.

Invited To Rome

Journal & Guide 10/21/33

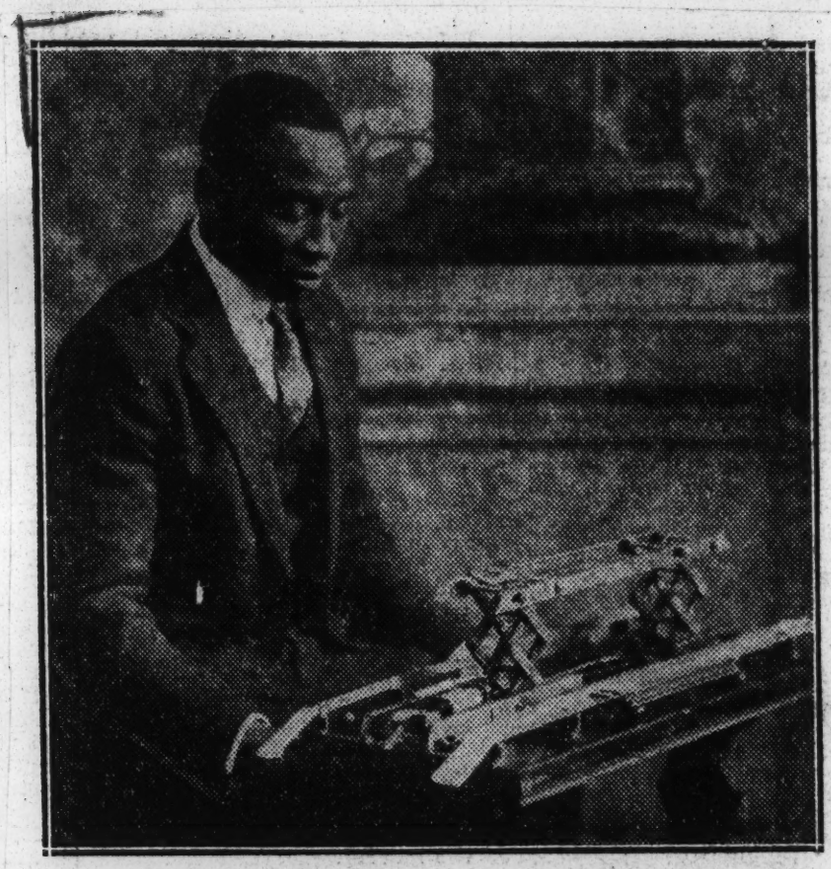
CHICAGO, (ANP) — Senator Guglielmo Marconia, the famous wireless inventor of Italy, and Marchesa Marconi, his wife, were introduced to the Duke Kwesi Kuntu, above, while at the Italian exhibit at a Century of Progress this week by Guisseppe Castruccia, royal consul general in Chicago. The interpreters told the Duke something of the inventor's life and his marvelous achievements in science.

The Duke, an Ashanti, (West Africa) nobleman congratulated him, and told him of Africa's need of science. He invited the senator to see his Famous Royal Ashanti Ceremonial Troupe, while he was here, but the inventor left the city Thursrday. An invitation was extended the Duke to visit Rome and Mussilini.

A NEGRO FINDS THE SECRET OF THE BIRDS

[From the Congregationalist]

Dr. George Haynes, in his book, "The Trend of the Races," reports that about eight hundred patents are known to have been issued to Negroes by the United States Government, from the two first patents for corn harvesters in 1834 down to the lubricating cups for machinery in motion, famous for thirty-five years as a necessary equipment in all up-to-date machinery. One Negro sold his patent to the General Electric Company for $10,000. A Negro patented a machine which does automatically all the operations involved in attaching soles to shoes. There is just now a young Negro inventor in Los Angeles whose ideas are considered so valuable that his model is insured for $15,000, and he himself is insured by the company promoting it for $100,000. The model is of an airplane, utilizing the principal of a vulture's wings. Jay Howard Montgomery has studied more than twenty thousand specimens of birds, making hundreds of microscopic studies of every detail of wing construction. He demonstrated that a dead bird with wings fixed in a rigid flying position could be carried by the wind more than twelve miles from an altitude of fifteen hundred feet. His wing device for the airplane will enable a plane to land or take off with a speed of only ten miles, and with a runway of only sixty feet. When it has gained altitude, he claims it could soar almost indefinitely with the motor shut off. Some of the leaders of the aviation industry are backing his invention. . . . And yet there are many people who still doubt the intellectual capacity of the Negro.



CAR WASHER INVENTS AUTO LIFT—George E. Jarret, N.Y.—With model of his new device for raising automobiles. It works by compressed air.

Northwest Enterprise Dec. 17 '34

Negro Genius Has Inventions To Free Millions Of Colored

HAVANA, Cuba—(CNS)—Senor Mauricio Rebellar y Plancht, a black Cuban whose brain is said to be almost as unique as Edison's, is the inventor of artificial coal that is cheaper and superior to the best coal used in Cuba.

Senor Plancht has enough patented inventions of utility to emancipate millions of black people from the quasi-peon status if there can be found among the Negro races of the world sufficient leadership to manufacture them, according to Dr. R. M. R. Nelson, a graduate of the Howard University dental school, who is the confidential agent and partner of Senor Plancht. Dr. Nelson went to Cuba in 1898.

It is generally believed that big business stopped the Cubans from making coal in Havana, and the intelligent Negroes in other countries have not yet seen any more value to these inventions than the African has seen in the diamond mines in his land.

An Englishman, however, cited the genius of Plancht in a letter he wrote to the British Admiral. He said: "I have a friend who possesses a marvelous brain, probably as rare and almost as unique as Edison's was. I want you to meet this man who is a self-educated marvel of intelligence. He is as black as tar. He has many inventions, five of which the British Admiralty should possess. They are: an improved electric light, an improved propellor, artificial coal that is cheaper and superior to the best channel coal, an auto pump and a centrifugal motor for water, steam or gasoline.

Among the other inventions of Senor Plancht are: Light Expender which has the strength of six candle power in a circumference of 3000 feet, a propellor 90 percent efficient, an automatic pump for supplying fresh air all the time in the pneumatic tubes of automobiles, a combination cigarette-roller-holder with ash tray and space for tobacco, paper and matches. This can be made and sold at 25 cents each. A smoker can roll with it more than 1000 cigarettes at the cost of one dollar.

Dr. Nelson is arranging a speaking tour for Senor Plancht. He is planning to present the inventor to 50 audiences in America in June, July, August, September, October, and November of 1935.

Negro Inventor

John Ernest Matzeliger, a negro, who was born in Dutch Guiana in 1852 and who died in Lynn, Mass., 1889, invented the first machine that performed automatically all the operations involved in attaching soles to shoes.

"Albion"

The name Albion is a rare or poetic name for Great Britain, and dates back to ancient times. It was suggested by the white cliffs on the southern coast. Perfidious Albion was a favorite expression of Napoleon I.—Literary Digest.

Cleveland Call & Post
July 15-33

Awarded Soviet Medal For His Invention

NEW YORK,—(CNA) —Robert Robinson, Negro engineer and inventor has been awarded a premium by the Central Council of the All-Union Inventors Society of the Soviet Union for his active work and splendid contributions to the rapid progress of Socialism in the U. S. S. R.

Robinson was one of several workers invited to the Soviet Union. Before leaving the United States, Robinson had been employed by the Ford Motor Company of Detroit, Mich. The bars set up by the U. S. ruling class to prepromotion of Negroes, promoted Robinson to accept the invitation of the Soviet Union where race prejudice has been abolished by the Revolution along with unemployment and mass misery.

Pefore going to Moscow, Robinson had studied at the Stalingrad Tractor Plant for several months. In 1930 he was attacked by a white American, Lewis, in a collective restaurant. Lewis was found guilty of white chauvinism in a mass trial and deported from the Soviet Union, after Soviet workers declared they would not tolerate American race hatred on their soil.

Robinson is credited by the First State Ball Bearing Plant, where he is now employed, with having saved the Soviet Government the sum of 15,500 rubles a month as a result of his inventions.

Journal and Guide
July 22, 1933

Granville T. Woods

(Greatsst Inventor of the Race)

"To diminish loss of life and property and produce a maximum of safety for travelers."

This was one of the expressed wishes of this great electrical engineer in his successful efforts to invent an electrical block system for preventing train wrecks and which has saved thousands of lives and millions in property.

The American Catholic Tribune, (Ohio) of April 1, 1887 says Mr. Granville T. Woods is the greatest electrician in the world, and his name will be handed down to coming generations along with Edison as one of the greatest inventors of his time.

American Negroes have to their credit such persons as Benjamin Banneker, inventor of the clock and almanac; Jan Metzelinger, inventor of a machine for lasting shoes; Dr. George Carver, agricultural chemist, who has discovered 180 ways to use the peanut and sweet potato for valuable by-products; Dr. D. H. Williams, who performed the first successful operation on the human heart.

Journal & Guide 7.9 35